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Instability Threatens Kosovo's Neighbors

Western Investment In Post-Bosnia Peace Could Be a Casualty

By Blaine Harden
New York Times Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia is destabilizing neighboring regions in which the United States and Europe have stationed tens of thousands of troops, spent billions of dollars and invested years of work in trying to secure peace, build democracy and improve moribund economies.

Since the bombing started on March 24, the 32,000 NATO NEWS ANALYSIS led troops who keep the shaky peace in Bosnia have faced numerous attacks from Serbs and are on high alert in the worst tension since the end of war in 1995.

In the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro, a president who has won backing from Washington and other foreign capitals is devoting all of his energies to averting a coup backed by the army of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Macedonia, which is coping with hundreds of thousands of Kosovo refugees, is worried about tens of thousands more arriving, and Croatia, with its economy dependent on tourism, faces a bleak summer of empty hotels and beaches.

For foreigners and locals alike, the fear is that prolonged NATO bombing of the Serbs will reopen all the wounds festering from the Balkan wars of this past decade. "The security situation is stable, but the longer the bombing goes on, the more difficult it will be to control the situation," said Lieutenant General Mike Wilcock, a British officer who is the deputy commander of the NATO-led peacekeepers in Bosnia.

In Bosnia and Montenegro, the best face that diplomats or military officials put on the Serb fury stoked by three weeks of bombing is that they should be able to contain it until Mr. Milosevic is defeated, at which point they suggest that prospects for democratic development in the region will soar.

"If getting rid of Milosevic fails, then everything else fails," said Carlos Westendorp, the Western envoy who essentially runs Bosnia under the 1995 Dayton peace accords. "That is the condition we need for full development of

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Chris Slobogin/WireImage.com
An Air Force C-17 cargo plane from Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, unloading Army personnel at the Tirana, Albania, airfield.

Pakistani Court Sentences Bhutto to 5 Years in Prison

By Celia Dugger
New York Times Service

NEW DELHI — A Pakistani court on Thursday convicted Benazir Bhutto — who has twice served as prime minister of Pakistan and twice been removed on corruption charges — for taking kickbacks while she was in office in the mid-1990s, sentenced her to five years in prison and barred her from holding political office.

Both Miss Bhutto, the Western-educated heir to one of Asia's political dynasties, and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, were found guilty of accepting kickbacks from a Swiss goods-inspection company that was hired while she was in office to combat corruption in the collection of customs duties, which are Pakistan's largest revenue source.

The court also sentenced Mr. Zardari to five years in prison, fined him and Miss Bhutto \$8.6 million and ordered that their property be confiscated.

Pakistan's Accountability Bureau, which investigated the case, reacted triumphantly. "Benazir Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, have finally been proved world-class thieves," the bureau said in a statement.

But Miss Bhutto, who was in London on Thursday, denied all the charges and said she would return to Pakistan next week to appeal the case to the Supreme Court. She denounced the verdict as a politically motivated attempt by her arch-rival, the current prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, to destroy her. "I ran the government to the best of my poorest.

See BHUTTO, Page 4

At Bottom, the Problem Is Spreading

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

SEATTLE — The polite way to describe the change being made to seats on Puget Sound ferries is to call it a refitting, or just a small but vital adjustment to suit the times. But that hides the plain truth: So many riders are so fat they need more room.

There was a day when the ferries carried 250 people with ease. Ferry officials had figured out how much space the average person needed to sit by using a precise formula — known as the 18-inch (45-centimeter) rule. It has been a kind of national standard in seating for generations, but it may not last much longer.

And in its demise is a story of the bulging of America.

From planes to stadiums, in church

As Americans' Obesity Rises, the Seat Pinches

pews and cinemas, even here on Seattle's ferries, the growing girth of the populace is slowly but surely redefining what comfort means across the country and prompting many industries to look anew at the shape of Americans. What they have found is a problem of sizable proportions.

In response to how wide many riders are getting, ferry officials recently reduced capacity on some boats and are installing more benches and bigger seats — with a 21-inch spread — on others. For the same reason, a movie theater opening soon in Seattle will have some seats for obese patrons.

And at a ballpark being built down-

town, many seats will be four inches wider than seats at the old Kingdome.

"The old seats don't seem to be working anywhere," said a ferry rider, Craig Gagner, on a trip across the sound to Vashon Island one recent afternoon. "My butt still fits the 18-inch rule, they say they use, but so many others are so huge they're crunching us. We're definitely not as lean as we used to be."

Nationally, some airlines are lifting tray tables higher on new planes to accommodate burgeoning bellies. Restaurants are buying wider booths and apparel makers are promoting more clothing with elastic waistbands.

The Society of Automotive Engineers is even working with U.S. Air

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See KOSOVO, Page 3

Anguished Over Debt, Brother Kills Brother in Japan

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

OSAKA, Japan — Shigeru Ishimura was hard at work at his father's bankrupt welding company when he heard a groan coming from across the small yard that separated the office from the factory.

Newstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	11.3000
Andorra	12.50 FF	Morocco	16.00 Dhs
Cameroun	1.600 CFA	Oman	10.00 QR
Egypt	£5.50	Reunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 SR
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal	1.100 CFA
Iraq	3.000 Lira	Spain	250 Ptas
Iraqi Coast	1.250 JD	Tunisia	1.250 Dini
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dhs
Lebanon	700 Lira	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	51.20

He ran to his father's office. What he saw there on Sept. 16 is etched into his memory as it is acid. His uncle was slumped on the floor, a knife sticking out of his belly. His father's hand was wrapped around the knife.

Murders, though increasing, are rare — there were only 1,338 in 1998, in a population of about 125 million — and fratricide is usually little more than the stuff of samurai dramas. But for the Ishimuras, the strains imposed by the recession exploded into just that.

"Our lives have turned 180 degrees," said Kinoko Ishimura, Shigeru's mother. "I can't believe it."

Her days now revolve around visiting her husband, Satomi, in prison, where he awaits trial for killing his brother, Kagenori.

The daily visits are heart-breaking. Her husband is frail and cries frequently. Yet Mrs. Ishimura takes heart that he is crying at all. "At the beginning, he could not even cry."

'Many, Many' Months of War Predicted by U.S. Officials

'This Is Very Risky,' Cohen Warns Senators

By Joseph Fitchett
and Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

Top U.S. military officials predicted Thursday that the NATO campaign against Yugoslavia could last "many, many" months, ending only when President Slobodan Milosevic gave in to alliance demands or when ethnic Albanian insurgents in Kosovo, radicalized by the Serbian onslaught, were able to push weakened Serbian forces out.

"This is not going to be quick, easy or near," Defense Secretary William Cohen said as he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington. "This is very risky."

The prospect of American casualties, he said, was "very real and high."

He and General Henry Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who also testified, were asked if the air

campaign, now entering its fourth week, could continue for "many, many, many weeks or even months."

Both men said "yes."

But they said that the campaign was making real progress and would be intensified.

In air raids Thursday, NATO warplanes reportedly hit the ships of Serbia's small navy in the port of Bar in Montenegro, the small republic that is Serbia's partner in the Yugoslav federation.

The attack on the Serbian warships, which allied officials accused of firing on NATO warplanes, seemed likely to sharpen the political tension in Montenegro, whose pro-Western government is reported to fear a coup by forces loyal to Belgrade.

On the diplomatic front, German officials defended their peace proposals on Kosovo, saying Thursday that they were designed to ensure that the alliance did not win the war with Serbia at the expense of alienating Russia and undermining the authority of President Boris Yeltsin. The Russian leader has been under attack at home because of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The German proposals, backed by the European Union, called for a 24-hour cease-fire in air strikes once Belgrade agreed to NATO demands and Serbian forces started physically withdrawing from Kosovo — with the air attacks to remain suspended, on a day-by-day basis, if the retreat proceeded rapidly. The proposals also embodied NATO's demand for an international force in Kosovo to ensure the safe return of refugees.

Germany's plan is "100 percent in line" with the positions adopted by NATO, a German policymaker said by phone from Bonn. There was "not an inch" of difference between his government and the U.S. administration, he said, adding that both allies agreed on the need for diplomacy, especially toward Russia, to contain the political repercussions of a prolonged conflict with Serbia.

In re-formulating the alliance demands, he said, Bonn was trying to find a basis for a Security Council resolution — acceptable to Russia — that would strengthen the international legitimacy of NATO's military action.

If the plan was adopted by Russia, Serbia's diplomatic isolation would be complete, according to an official involved in framing the diplomatic initiative put forward by Joschka Fischer, the foreign minister.

U.S. officials, who share Bonn's wish



A woman who had been in the convoy attacked by NATO, crying after her arrival Thursday in Kukes, Albania, near the border with Kosovo. (AP Wirephoto, Agence France Presse)

NATO in a Tactical Bind After Bombing Error

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

BRUSSELS — From the skies over a landscape aflame with burning villages and crisscrossed by refugees and enemy troops, the American pilot of an F-16 fighter jet felt sure he saw three military trucks below on a narrow road. After moving in for a closer look, he dropped a laser-guided bomb.

It was midafternoon Wednesday. But what seemed a trophy turned out to be a group of tractor-drawn flatbeds that had ferried tens of thousands of refugees to Albania and Macedonia. NATO officials here offered no count of the dead; Serb spokesman put the death toll at 72 — the bloodiest incident in a war fought in the name of protecting civilians.

On Thursday, NATO officials in Brussels worked hard to both explain the incident and maintain the moral high ground in an increasingly messy conflict. They repeatedly expressed regret but said that such events might happen again. And in no case, they asserted vigorously, would the NATO bombing campaign, now at the beginning of its fourth week, be suspended or altered.

"At the end of the day," said Jamie Shea, NATO's civilian spokesman, "this will go on; this will succeed."

The acknowledgment of the attack on civilians put NATO in a tactical and propaganda bind. Air strikes already are carried out under rules designed to avoid hitting civilians. But pilots also are told to fly no lower than 15,000 feet (4,500 meters) above the ground, to stay out of anti-aircraft range.

Complying with the altitude limit in this case meant tragedy. The pilot was wrong when he said he saw military trucks, NATO officials said.

"Of course, identification with the eye is more complex," said Brigadier General Giuseppe Marini, a NATO spokesman.

In Washington, the U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressed regret over the attack. "We do try to reduce the risks to innocent

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AGENDA

Boeing's Earnings Increase Ninefold

Boeing Co. said Thursday that its earnings surged more than ninefold in the first quarter, beating analysts' expectations, as the world's largest aircraft maker rebounded from the severe production bottlenecks that plagued it a year ago.

Net income at Seattle-based Boeing rose \$469 million from \$50 million in the first quarter of 1998. Boeing said all three operating units, including military aircraft, contributed to a solid first quarter. Page 13.

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The Battle for Kosovo / A 'Two-Track' Tactic Suggested in European Capitals

German and French Plans on Kosovo Reflect Political Needs at Home

By John Vinocur
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — After three weeks of air attacks on Yugoslavia, some of Europe's leadership is showing signs of restlessness, a desire to turn peace plans and diplomatic maneuvering into a mark of difference in a war that may have only just begun.

The resolve of NATO's European component to pursue the military campaign has not been called into question by either the European governments themselves or their American ally. And by almost every gauge, official alliance solidarity remains high.

But two plans, a German one for ending the fighting and a French one for the future administration of Kosovo, both discussed in the background of a European Union summit meeting on Wed-

nesday, suggested how much Continental Europe wants to be seen talking about a resolution of the crisis — at the same time that some of its commentators are asking if the American-led bombing, described as a strategy gone wrong, can possibly stop a human rights disaster of tragic magnitude.

NEWS ANALYSIS The eagerness to talk about bombing pauses, greater Russian and United Nations Security Council involvement in trying to drive sense into Slobodan Milosevic and turning Kosovo into a temporary EU jurisdiction once peace is restored may reflect the political wisdom of governments wanting to head off a perception that they are doing little besides following the Americans' military lead. Their leaders could also be justifiably concerned that their constituencies' support may be narrower and

more fragile than the current reassuring poll results to support for the war indicate.

In inviting the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, to their meeting in Brussels, and by emphasizing Russia's role in seeking a solution, the Continental Europeans have also sought to stress for their public opinion that they were opening new avenues of exploration that went beyond NATO's closed circuits, and jogging the Americans into a more intensive search for a negotiated settle-

ment. Yet talking about what might be possible seemed a diversion to the other allied countries, too much chat too soon about ending a war that was nowhere near won.

It was regarded as a two-track tactic that raised uneven or misguided psychological expectations: thin hopes for a

way out, stacked against the real prospects of a harsher war.

Ironically, the notion of a bombing halt had aspects of a concession in advance, rather like the perceived American doctrine of no deaths and no ground war, so often described in Europe as a conceptual and strategic error of basic significance.

If the United States, by way of rea-
son, chose not to engage extensively in public beyond rejecting the halt, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain employed a tone that reflected more irritation.

After telling reporters that he had spoken to President Bill Clinton, he said Wednesday, "There is not going to be a halt to the NATO action until the demands we have set, which are humane and civilized demands, are met in full."

On Thursday, the problem with the German approach — talking about an end to the conflict without establishing the basis of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization victory — appeared, brightly silhouetted by skilled Russian diplomacy. Choosing what he wanted to hear, and perhaps what he thought Western European public opinion was waiting to be told, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Russia's envoy on Yugoslavia, said,

"What Germany is proposing is to stop all military action for at least 24 hours and look for a compromise — deserves attention."

Almost simultaneously in a speech before the Bundestag, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder asserted that all the West's conditions for a Kosovo settlement would have to be accepted before a bombing halt, but that he was indeed ready to talk to Mr. Chernomyrdin.

What the West's conditions meant was another issue because the German proposal mentioned only the presence of an unspecified international force to maintain security in Kosovo after the eventual withdrawal of the Serbian Army and the police.

In contrast, Joe Lockhart, the White House spokesman, said Wednesday, "The U.S. position is that we believe only NATO is capable of providing the kind of command structure that we'd be comfortable with."

This aspect of an eventual settlement pointed toward an ultimate question for the alliance: Could its European members agree with the United States on a satisfactory definition of what constituted an unmistakable victory over the Milosevic regime?

For NATO's most fervent supporters, an unambiguous victory was regarded as the single acceptable outcome for the organization if its future is to be preserved as guarantor of security and human rights in Europe.

But the variations between what the United States and Europe could regard as victory were extensive. Alain Richard, the French defense minister, was asked twice Thursday on a French radio program if the only acceptable result of the conflict in Yugoslavia was victory.

The simple answer would have been yes.

Mr. Richard, slipping the question a first time, finally replied by saying ambiguously, "Everybody can lose."

To what extent governments in France and Germany could handle even wider military efforts without creating greater strains in the alliance was not clear.

A German policymaker, requesting anonymity, said that being engaged on the right side in a war did not make the issue simpler for the majority of people in Germany. He said the weekly newspaper *Die Zeit* seemed to have gotten it right this week in saying that Germans supported the Kosovo intervention, but lived with "exaggerated hopes that there will be peace talks soon and that Germany will return to normalcy."

While supporting the war effort, the German government of Social Democrats and Greens was obviously under pressure to uphold its component parties' traditional nonviolent and peace credentials. A peace plan seemed to come naturally to the government, but it would be much harder pressed if had to legitimize an intensification in the bombings or involvement on the ground.

In France, where President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin were active in defending attacks on the Belgrade regime, and successful for the time being in bringing public opinion to their side, there was central interest in maintaining some kind of French specificity in circumstances largely defined by the Americans.

The answer for now seemed to be in pressing for Russian and Security Council involvement in Kosovo discussions, so as not to allow NATO to become the vector of a political solution. As far as the Gaullist right wing was concerned, according to Alain Peyrefitte, once a cabinet minister under Charles de Gaulle, France could still salvage the possibility of special relations with Russia. "Never has Washington's possession of Europe been so mortifyingly evident," Mr. Peyrefitte said.

The newspaper *Le Monde*, often an accurate reflection of official foreign policy thinking, said if France focused attention on the United Nations and Russia, it was thinking ahead: "because it feared in current (like Iraq) or future circumstances leaving the way open to the unilateralism of the United States and its domination of NATO."

BALKANS: Destabilizing the Region

Continued from Page 1

the region, respect of borders and democracy."

He and other Western officials agree, however, that the longer the bombing continues, the more difficult it will be for peacekeeping forces in Bosnia to bold back Serb radicals and for the government in Montenegro to escape a coup attempt that could spark a civil war.

The bombing has halted efforts to rebuild infrastructure or return Bosnians who fled the war to their old homes. Hundreds of Westerners have evacuated Republika Srpska, as the Bosnian Serbs half of Bosnia is known. Mr. Westendorp has ordered the elected Serbian assembly not to meet until the Kosovo war is over.

"What I am doing is freezing the situation," he said Wednesday in Sarajevo. "The hard-liners are constantly harassing the moderates. It would do a lot of harm to have the assembly meet."

The West has the most control in Bosnia. There, NATO peacekeepers are heavily armed and have more than three years' experience dealing with the terrain and managing the anger of Bosnian Serbs. After the air strikes began on March 24, General Wilcocks ordered a ban on the training and movement of local armies across Bosnia. Peacekeeping troops have been ordered to wear body armor in the field at all times and not to travel in groups of less than three.

In the week after the bombing began, there was a sharp increase in Serbian attacks on peacekeeping troops, including several incidents when hand grenades were thrown from moving cars. General Wilcocks would not say how many incidents there had been, only that they had subsided somewhat in the past week. No troops have been injured, he said.

The general said that forces in Bosnia "have nothing to do with NATO." But the credibility of that distinction took a severe blow on April 3, when peacekeeping troops whose nationality has not been disclosed, acting on orders from Washington, blew up a stretch of railroad in Bosnia that connects Belgrade with Montenegro. Western diplomats in Sarajevo said the action had been ordered because of information that a trainload of armed Serbian paramilitary forces was headed to Montenegro to make trouble for the pro-Western government there.

The destruction of the tracks, during which the troops shot and killed a guard who fired at them, gave Serbian na-

tionals in Bosnia a reason to argue that their country was being occupied by the same forces that are bombing Serbia.

The bombing also exacerbated an already severe political crisis in Republika Srpska. In March, Mr. Westendorp in effect dismissed the republic's elected president, Nikola Poplasen, a radical nationalist who had refused for months to work with the moderate prime minister.

On that same day, an arbitrator in Vienna denied the Serbs exclusive control of Brcko, a city that connects two parts of their territory. Many Bosnian Serbs regard the city as an essential link for the survival of Republika Srpska.

The bombing, then, was seen as part of a triple whammy by the West against Serbs and has sharply raised the risks of violence, said Bryan Hopkinson, director of the Sarajevo-based Bosnia project of the International Crisis Group, a research organization funded by European governments and Western foundations.

"At worst," he wrote in a report last week, "the capacity might soon exist to mount an armed secessionist movement, at least for that part of Republika Srpska east of Brcko, perhaps using paramilitaries so that the political instigators would not be directly implicated." But Mr. Hopkinson, a former British ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, said that any secessionist movement would be easily banded by peacekeepers.

While the Kosovo problem would be even more daunting than in Bosnia, where officials say the peace settlement still is fragile and artificial and could take another 20 years to consolidate, Kosovo would also require more resources than the EU has poured into Bosnian reconstruction, which includes the services of about 600 staff members and an investment of about 700 million euros (\$750 million).

The EU has not even begun to total up the cost of reconstruction in Kosovo, according to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany. But anything



Some of 161 ethnic Albanian refugees arriving Thursday at Vienna's Schwechat airport from Skopje, Macedonia.

EU's Daunting Roadmap to Kosovo Peace: Bosnia

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — European leaders who have offered to set up a civil government in Kosovo in any future peace settlement, said Thursday that any such administration would draw heavily on the EU's experience in running Bosnia-Herzegovina under the terms of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

But the Kosovo problem would be even more daunting than in Bosnia, where officials say the peace settlement still is fragile and artificial and could take another 20 years to consolidate.

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would surely be less than a continuation of the war, he said.

At a summit meeting Wednesday night in Brussels, the EU called for Kosovo to be placed under an "international interim administration" backed by a UN Security Council resolution. Until now, EU leaders have been reluctant to support independence for Kosovo, for fear this would destabilize the region. Under the proposed arrangement, the province would remain an integral part of the federal republic of Yugoslavia, but the leaders recognized that the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians who have been driven out of their homes in the past three weeks are unlikely to accept direct rule by Belgrade again.

While the leaders said the EU would be willing to establish a civil administration, they also called for the creation of a police force that reflected the composition of the population of Kosovo, the holding of fair and free elections and the deployment of international military

forces that would guarantee protection to the entire population.

The European Commission, the EU's executive body, has done some advanced thinking about bringing countries into the region into a web of economic and political partnerships. But lacking political will and cash from member governments, these plans are largely moot.

It was only three weeks ago that the leaders decided on an internal budget arrangement that would enable the EU to proceed with enlarging in Eastern and Central Europe by admitting Estonia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia, as well as Cyprus to full membership. Five other Eastern European countries await membership at a later stage, but outside these concentric circles, a number of nations ranging from Ukraine to Macedonia have been left dangling in a kind of post-Communist limbo.

The challenge for the EU now, officials said, is how to bring the outsiders into a closer partnership, with the prospect, admittedly distant, of eventual membership. In summarizing the de-

liberations at the summit meeting, Mr. Schroeder said the Balkan countries would be given the opportunity of "increasing rapprochement" to the EU.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the EU administration headed by a special envoy, Carlos Westendorp, has spearheaded the nonmilitary aspects of the Dayton peace agreement. It is responsible for finances, reconstruction, the return of refugees and institution building. Even there, the prospects for lasting success appear shaky, officials said.

The EU has financed the reconstruction or repair of thousands of housing units to encourage the resettlement of refugees and the internally displaced. But many of those homes remain unoccupied, either because people fear they lack security or because of a shortage of jobs. The task in Kosovo appears more daunting and becomes more complex as the conflict continues.

The EU has no immediate funds earmarked for the task. It has diverted 250 million euros intended for the reconstruction of Kosovo to aiding Macedonia and Albania in dealing with a tidal wave of human misery.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Rio Beaches Closed to Swimmers

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — Two of the world's most celebrated beaches, Copacabana and Ipanema, have been declared no-swim zones for a month because there could be raw sewage in the surf.

A pipeline that usually carries the city's sewage 4.3 kilometers (2.7 miles) out to sea began leaking in January and has been shut for repairs. Officials said repairs should be completed in two weeks.

In the meantime, sewage is being dumped from outlets much closer to the beach and visitors have been warned to stay out of the water all along the Rio coast.

Libya Sends Post-Embargo Flight

AMMAN (AFP) — The first commercial Libyan Arab Airlines flight landed at Amman's international airport Wednesday, following the suspension of a seven-year air and arms embargo on Tripoli, Jordanian officials said.

Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian, will resume regular flights to Tripoli next week, said the director of the airline, Nader Dhabahi.

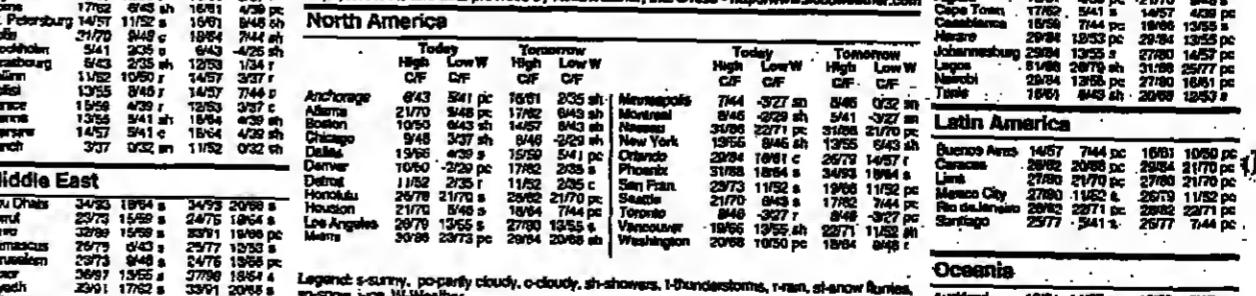
Pilots from U.S. airlines urged U.S. regulators not to ease restrictions on how far twin-engine planes can fly from emergency landing strips. The regulators are weighing whether to allow flights as long as 3 hours and 27 minutes from the nearest airport. (Bloomberg)

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Map, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. 81120 - <http://www.accuweather.com>

North America



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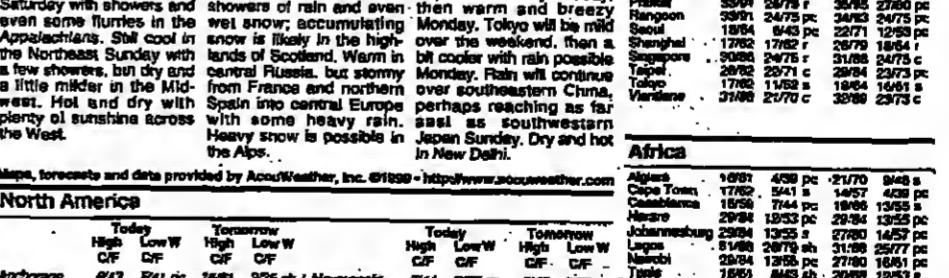
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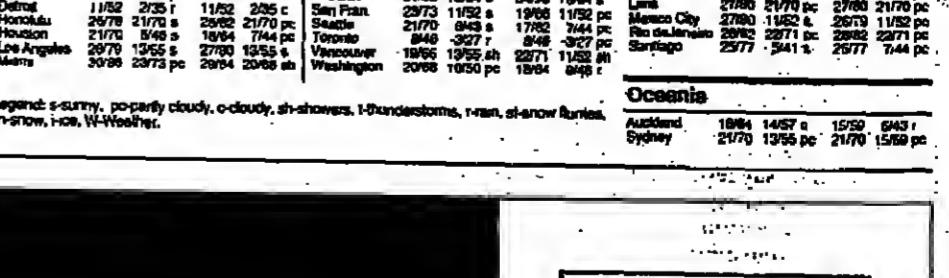
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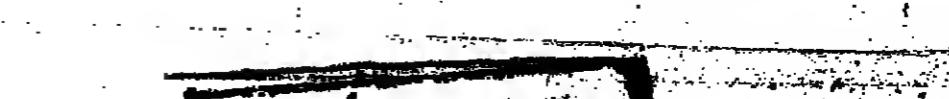
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Web site: www.ihid.dk

at H The Battle for Kosovo / We're All Collateral Damage From NATO's Bombs

Yugoslavia Fights Two Wars: One With NATO and One With Itself

By Michael Dobbs
Washington Post Service

BELGRADE — There are two wars going on in Yugoslavia, a senior politician here said, lowering his voice. One is the war against the "foreign aggressor." The other is "a war within the country" over what kind of Yugoslavia will emerge from the debris of NATO bombs and cruise missiles.

In public, political leaders and intellectuals across a wide range of ideology have spoken with one voice in condemning a NATO bombing campaign designed to force the Serb-led Yugoslav government to accept a U.S.-drafted settlement for Kosovo — a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

Beneath the surface, however, it is not difficult to find signs of intense maneuvering and sharp differences among independent-minded politicians and members of President Slobodan Milosevic's government. Much of the debate has revolved around ties between Yugoslavia and the outside world and on whether the country should retreat into a nationalist cocoon. The question,

one official said, is whether Yugoslavia will "become a gulag after the war, or will we be more or less a normal country."

The power struggle is being played out in a debate over the fate of three American servicemen captured last month on the Yugoslav-Macedonian border, the presence of foreign journalists in the country during the war and in a continuing battle for control of what remains of the independent news media here.

A funeral was held Wednesday for one of the country's most prominent independent journalists, Slavko Curuvija, who was gunned down Sunday outside his home in the center of Belgrade, just days after being accused in the official news media of supporting the NATO bombing campaign.

Mr. Milosevic holds virtually all the reins of power through his control of both Yugoslav and Serbian security forces, the media and a large majority in Parliament. He is flanked, however, by political leaders of vastly disparate and sometimes conflicting views — extreme Serbian nationalists, such as the Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj, and more moderate figures, such as Vuk Draskovic, a former opposition leader who

joined the government in January. Mr. Seselj and Mr. Draskovic are deputy prime ministers.

A simmering feud within the government burst into the open this week, with Mr. Draskovic accusing his opponents of wanting "to build communism for a second time" on the country's "shattered ruins." Although he stopped short of calling for acceptance of NATO's terms for ending the Kosovo conflict, Mr. Draskovic said Yugoslavia had already won a moral victory and could not hope to inflict a military defeat on the U.S.-led alliance.

Mr. Seselj seized on Mr. Draskovic's remarks to accuse his longtime rival of defeatism and to brand him "a traitor."

The deputy prime ministers also have been at odds over the issue of whether to permit foreign journalists to remain in Yugoslavia. The Serbian Information Ministry, which is controlled by Mr. Seselj's party, issued an expulsion order for foreign journalists the day after the bombing began; the Yugoslav Information Ministry, which is in the hands of Mr. Draskovic's party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, immediately countermanded the order.

While Mr. Draskovic has suggested that the captured American servicemen could be released as a goodwill gesture to the United States, Mr. Seselj has publicly ruled out any such possibility and called for the soldiers to be tried as spies.

Despite their high-profiles, Mr. Draskovic and Mr. Seselj have little direct authority within the political power structure. In effect, they serve as surrogates for an ongoing debate within the inner circle around President Milosevic, enabling him to choose at any time between two diverging political paths.

By retaining the two men in the government, Mr. Milosevic is able to keep his political opponents constantly off-balance and present himself as a compromise figure. Despite his authoritarian ways, his power rests on the willingness of the voters to support him; his Serbian Socialist Party has won a series of relatively democratic elections over the past 10 years.

It is widely agreed here that Mr. Milosevic's power has only been strengthened by the NATO attacks. "NATO started an action to take power out of his hands, but after two weeks he has more power than he started off with," said Zoran

Djordic, leader of the pro-Western Democratic Party.

A reasonably accurate picture of the state of public opinion here is provided by the distribution of seats in the Yugoslav Parliament after elections last year. Mr. Milosevic's party and its political ally, the Yugoslav United Left, led by Mr. Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic, hold 103 seats. Mr. Seselj's party has 61 seats and Mr. Draskovic's 45. The Democratic Party boycotted the elections as a protest against what it said were unfair ground rules.

Milan Bozic, a supporter of Mr. Draskovic and deputy mayor of Belgrade, estimated that the bombings had probably reduced the ranks of democracy forces here from about 30 percent of the population to less than 20 percent. "The Democratic Party has no future anymore; they don't exist," he said.

"When this is all over," Mr. Djordic lamented, "Kosovo will no longer be an important political issue, but we will have hunger and social unrest. That will not be very good grounds for democracy. We could turn into a European Iraq, destabilizing the whole region."

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Tears Mingle With Wariness As 1,000 Mourn Slain Journalist

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — About 1,000 people came out to bury Slavko Curuvija, an independent publisher who was assassinated this week. As air raid sirens sounded their own peculiar dirge through the lime and chestnut trees, his mourners tried to take courage from one another's public presence — their refusal to be intimidated in a troubled time.

Tears were mixed with wariness, as many of those who went Wednesday to Novo Groblje, Belgrade's main cemetery, quietly wondered if the killing of Mr. Curuvija would be the last.

"This was a political killing, aimed at independent journalism," said Zoran Djordic, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party. "But it was also aimed at spreading fear across democratic Serbia."

Mr. Curuvija, the publisher of the daily newspaper *Dnevni Telegraf* and the biweekly magazine *Evropskijan*, was killed in front of his apartment building on Orthodox Easter Sunday as he was returning from lunch with Branka Prica, a well-known historian.

Two men in black leather jackets shot him in the back, pistol-whipped Miss Prica, and then, as he lay face down on the ground, shot him again in the head.

Mr. Curuvija, 50, was under a suspended five-month prison sentence for violating Serbia's draconian press law, passed in October, and the state tele-



Yugoslav anti-aircraft fire lighting up the night sky over Belgrade during a NATO raid on industrial targets.

vision and the tabloid *Politika* Express falsely accused him of favoring NATO's bombing of Serbia. The tabloid quoted Mirjana Markovic, the wife of President Slobodan Milosevic, as saying that "the owner of a Belgrade daily newspaper said he supports the United States in its desire to bomb Serbia." The writer of the article then continued, "This is, of course, Slavko Curuvija."

"These commentators were like a death sentence," a senior Serb journalist said at the funeral. Mr. Curuvija, who had become a man of means, was once close to Miss Markovic. But he took his publications down, an increasingly independent, serious and outspoken path.

Veran Matic, editor-in-chief of the once-independent radio station B92 —

taken over last week by the government — said Mr. Curuvija's slaying "was meant to be an example to anyone who intended to take the same road."

Mr. Matic said he believed that the killing would boomerang, reminding Serbs that free speech can be easily lost. But the true effects can be only when NATO's bombings stop, he said, because it is almost impossible to criticize the Milosevic government while it is defending the country from outside aggression.

"We're all collateral damage from NATO's bombs — Curuvija, B92, the democrats," said another senior editor at B92. Mr. Curuvija himself, before he died, spoke against the bombing and bemoaned the inability of democrats and dissidents to speak out during what he

called "this war fever."

"I was concerned that many people would be too afraid to come," to the funeral, said Aleksandara Joksimovic, an official of the Democratic Party. "It's a terrible, tragic moment, but I'm glad people were not afraid to show their disgust at such brutality. "We are against the bombs, of course," she added. "But Serbs must be united against the aggression, not fighting one another."

After the burial, a senior Serbian journalist noted that few of the mourners were wearing the target logo worn at anti-NATO rallies. "This is normal Belgrade," he said, gesturing to the crowd. "In a way, this is a funeral for normal Belgrade." But he, too, mournfully, asked a reporter not to print his name.

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Helped by His Foes' Ineptitude, Yeltsin Rises Again

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Just a week ago, things were looking dire for President Boris Yeltsin: The Communist opposition had set a date for his impeachment; a fast-moving corruption inquiry was knocking at the gates of the Kremlin; itself; NATO's bombs over Yugoslavia threatened to damage not only Russia's relations with the West but also the tenets of the country's fragile democracy.

It was then that Mr. Yeltsin, always at his best when things could not be worse, returned to the fray.

Back in the Kremlin after a long convalescence, the 68-year-old president held a series of meetings, rattled a few sabers, floated a few rumors and dropped a few hints, all intended to prove once again that for all his physical and political weaknesses, he is still his physical and political weaknesses, he is still the boss.

It may be only a passing victory, but Mr. Yeltsin's opponents seem to have been disarmed. The impeachment drive has been slowed, if not stalled. The corruption inquiry looks to be headed for

an impasse, as top Russian politicians, after heavy woning by the Kremlin, back away from their support for Yuri Skuratov, the prosecutor under fire who has been enlisted by anti-Yeltsin forces.

And so far Mr. Yeltsin seems to have won the tiger of Russia's anti-Western mood long enough to stay ahead of his political opponents.

"It is not that he is such a brilliant chess player," said Leonid Radzitsky, a political commentator for the newspaper *Sevodnya*. "It is just that it's easy to win when your opponents can't tell the difference between a pawn and a knight."

As a lame-duck president with one year left in his term, Mr. Yeltsin these days is not looking to stage a comeback. His popularity ratings are so low he probably couldn't be elected to the city council in Yekaterinburg, his hometown. But in recent statements, Mr. Yeltsin has again confirmed his credentials as a democrat, ruling out the abolition of direct elections of Russia's regional governors and a ban on the Communist Party, and defending — as he always has — the freedom of Russia's unruly press.

Still, after the country's financial collapse last summer, a majority of Russians are just plain bitter — bitter about being poor and now, after NATO's show of strength in the Balkans, bitter about being weak.

"He is not a charismatic leader any more, to put it mildly," said Otto Latsis, a veteran political commentator, "and there is great popular resentment against him. But it is clear that we need to hold on to Yeltsin as long as possible so as not to allow these other fools to take his place."

Like many liberals, Mr. Latsis saw his faith in his president severely damaged by the war to Chechnya. For others, the Yeltsin era will be blighted forever by the rampant corruption and abuses of power openly tolerated by the Kremlin in the past seven years.

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"Wages in Russia are on average 71.8 percent of what they were a year ago, and a staggering 38.2 percent of the people are living beneath the poverty line, compared with 22.4 percent in the first half of 1998."

Given this sour mood, nobody would declare an end to Russia's recurrent political warfare, let alone predict how it will turn out. If anything, with parliamentary elections just eight months away, the fight has moved to a new and increasingly intense phase.

To judge from Mr. Yeltsin's recent remarks, his fears of a reversal in the course he has set for Russia since 1991 now rest not so much to the Communist-dominated Parliament but in the government of Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, the former foreign minister whom he himself appointed last September.

The friction between Mr. Primakov and Mr. Yeltsin is an open secret after Mr. Yeltsin stated publicly last week that his prime minister was "useful" — for now. "Later, we will see," he said, raising the specter of yet another government shuffle.

"They were really only one word away from agreement," the German official said, explaining that the Russians objected to a "military" international presence to supervise postwar Kosovo.

Bonn hopes to convince the Yeltsin government that it can only lose international prestige if it continues to oppose NATO as the alliance crushes the United Nations summit meeting.

In an encouraging sign for Bonn, the German plan drew a favorable initial reaction. Thursday from Viktor Chernomyrdin, the former Russian prime minister who has just been named to the Kosovo issue.

"That's where we're hoping to start, working with Chernomyrdin," the German official said, adding that Bonn was ready for exploratory conversations with Moscow but that developments would probably take time and start to materialize only after the summit meeting of NATO nations next week in Washington.

"It shows that Mr. Yeltsin wants to get Russia back into developments," another European official said, noting that the rebels of the Kosovo Liberation Army were not as weakened as some reports have said. While a few hundred have been killed, "many more have been radicalized by Milosevic's

forces" and eventually would defeat the Serbians.

Even one of the most vocal critics of the NATO operation, Senator James Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican, said he was certain that there was no escaping a prolonged conflict. He argued that the ethnic Albanian insurgents were as violent as the Serbian forces and that the United States risked being bogged down in a war with no easy end.

"I'm going to do everything I can to stop us from getting into a protracted war," he said. "I'm going to lose. It's going to happen."

Mr. Cohen replied that the Kosovo Liberation Army "doesn't qualify as any kind of choirboy circle," but added that there was "no real moral equivalency" between what the rebels had done and what the Serbian forces have done.

But both defense officials said that NATO had no plans for a ground war with its own troops and expected the air war to succeed. Air attacks have eliminated Yugoslavia's capacity to refine oil and halved its ability to produce ammunition. Mr. Cohen said, adding that the Yugoslav military was starting to defect and Serbian men were fleeing Belgrade to avoid military service.

In Europe, analysts and officials said that, to some extent, the German peace initiative was as weak as it was designed to sustain public support for the NATO campaign for as long as it takes to produce a military outcome. Britain, publicly, the most

hawkish European ally, supports the German bid for a Security Council resolution underwriting the NATO campaign, and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook dismissed some questions Thursday about the German bid, saying that "it would be wholly wrong in present circumstances as if they were suggesting a truce now to enable negotiations. They are not."

Acknowledging that there were omissions in the English-language version of Bonn's plan, especially regarding the 24-hour truce, the German official said that late-night trans-Atlantic phone calls Wednesday had been required for clarifications to the Clinton administration about details of the plan presented at the European Union summit meeting.

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THE AMERICAS

Balkan War Blows Out a Few Candles on NATO's 50th Birthday CakeBy Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The air war raging in the Balkans has altered, in ways substantive and ceremonial, a summit conference planned next week to mark the 50th anniversary of the North Atlantic Alliance.

Key decisions have been put off about the alliance's future and that of its military grouping, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and celebratory events that might have appeared unseemly while NATO planes are raining destruction on Yugoslavia have been scrapped.

The conflict in Kosovo has preempted one of the major decisions that was to have been made at the summit: Whether and under what circumstances the alliance would go into combat outside the territory of its 19 members.

The alliance also has decided to postpone any decisions about new members, partly to avoid further tensions with Russia, a strong opponent

of the air war against Yugoslavia and of NATO expansion.

And while the summit's final documents will contain modest new initiatives on combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and training military forces for new missions, these long-term programs are likely to be overshadowed by the Kosovo air war. It is the first real test of the alliance's cohesion and determination in a military crisis.

The most visible impact of the Kosovo conflict on the summit meeting will be in the social and symbolic events.

There will be no black ties at White House dinners for the 42 visiting heads of state, for example, nor will there be any big-name entertainers. There will not be a flyover by military jets, nor will a big-name television journalist be enlisted as master of ceremonies for the "commemorative event" April 23.

White House officials insist that they never considered inviting Barbra Streisand to partic-

ipate or Celine Dion or any other show business celebrities whose appearances were supposedly scheduled.

But they acknowledged that events that would have had triumphal or celebratory themes have been modified into working meetings, focusing on the Balkans crisis and the future conduct of the air war.

"The theoretical gala would have been terrific," Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering said. "We would all have loved that. And while, of course, nobody desired to have this particular crisis at this particular time, it is another opportunity for us to indicate how important, serious and significant NATO is in dealing with the future of Europe."

A White House official said: "Under the circumstances it is natural to adjust the tone to what is happening." He spoke Wednesday as NATO planes began their fourth week of bombing Yugoslavia in an effort to force its security forces out of Kosovo Province.

"What it has really meant for us as planners is that we have had to stay flexible on the details much longer than we normally would," said Richard Soccorides, a White House official who is the summit conference's "chief operating officer."

"A decision was not made on air for the dinners until late last week, so invitations are just going out now," he said.

The dinner he was referring to are White House events scheduled for April 23 and 24, the first for the heads of state of the 19 current members of the alliance and their spouses, the second for the heads of state, spouses, cabinet officials and other dignitaries from the NATO countries and 24 countries of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, many of which aspire to NATO membership.

The council, which includes former Soviet satellites from the Warsaw Pact and former Soviet republics, has a limited security cooperation agreement with the alliance.

The NATO summit will be the largest gathering of heads of state ever in Washington.

Russia is the only member of the partnership group that declined to take part. Before the bombing started, the State Department listed "deepening cooperation with Russia" as one of the alliance's objectives for the summit meeting.

As envisioned by the Clinton administration and other alliance members, the 50th-anniversary summit was intended to resolve the questions facing the alliance now that the threat it was established to oppose no longer exists.

This included whether and when the alliance will take on missions outside the territory of its members.

Administration officials, alliance diplomats and independent analysts agreed that Kosovo has answered that question.

What Kosovo has not done, officials and analysts said, is provide a useful precedent for determining when another such action might be required.

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Looking to Keep Genetic Codes Public**Drug Firms Want Keys to New Medicines Before Upstarts Claim Them**By Justin Gillis
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ten of the world's largest drug companies are joining forces with five of the leading gene laboratories in a program to unravel many of the tiny genetic differences that underlie the diversity of the human race.

The collaboration, announced in Chicago, is partly designed to ensure that upstart biotechnology companies do not patent discoveries about important genetic differences and lock out competitors that want to create drugs based on that information.

The drug companies are betting these genetic differences will become a fundamental resource for 21st-century medicine, and they want as many of them as possible kept in the public domain.

Joined by the Wellcome Trust, a leading British charity, the drug companies will spend \$45 million to hire the five

gene laboratories for a two-year research program aimed at discovering 300,000 common genetic variations. The research the laboratories produce will be disseminated on the Internet and in other forums at least every three months, ensuring that it cannot be patented.

The companies involved in the consortium are AstraZeneca PLC, Bayer AG, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Glaxo Wellcome PLC, Hoechst Marion Rousset AG, Novartis, Pfizer Inc., Searle, and Smith-Kline Beecham PLC.

The drug companies want to discover genetic differences that influence whether people get cancer, heart disease, stroke or other ailments, how likely they are to survive such illnesses and how they respond to treatment with drugs.

Several American and European biotech companies are looking for important genetic differences, with an eye to patenting any knowledge they uncover.

pects of human behavior.

Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, said the project would complement the Human Genome Project, the vast international undertaking he heads. That research program aims to produce a complete map of the human genetic code no later than 2003.

The map, while hugely valuable as a guide for medical research, will represent no single human being, but rather a sort of average. The drug company project aims to find many of the ways in which people diverge from the average.

In part, the drug companies are reacting to concerns that small, nimble biotechnology companies, whose specialty is genetic research, will outmaneuver them.

Several American and European biotech companies are looking for important genetic differences, with an eye to patenting any knowledge they uncover.

POLITICAL NOTES**No Shutdown Seen Over Census Dispute**

WASHINGTON — Key Republicans in Congress say they will not force a government shutdown this summer over the 2000 Census, making it more likely the White House will win in the lengthy dispute over how to conduct the population count.

The Clinton administration and Republicans have been waging a bitter fight over whether the census should rely on a traditional door-to-door count or use a huge survey of households to adjust the population numbers. Democrats say a survey would compensate for millions of Americans missed in the head count. Census figures are used to distribute tens of millions of dollars in federal funds.

Acknowledging that they cannot overcome a presidential veto, Republican leaders on Wednesday signaled plans to cool the battle in the Congress. They vowed to continue fighting in court.

The clash has threatened to shut down part of the federal government when an appropriation expires June 15. (WP)

Gingrich Still Active

WASHINGTON — Out of the lime-light for the first time in two decades, the former House speaker, Newt Gingrich, has been quietly fattening his personal bank account, on target to make at least \$3 million in lecture fees alone this year while laying the groundwork to maintain his influence in national politics.

Mr. Gingrich made his first appearance in Washington in months Wednesday as he was feted by hundreds of lobbyists, politicos and other supporters at a dinner that organizers said will raise close to \$1 million for his political action committee and his favorite charity, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Zhu Rongji, prime minister of China, complaining about the amount of time he has spent talking about human rights during his U.S. trip: "I practically have blisters on my mouth." (NYT)

FAT: Americans Find the Seat a Tight Fit

Continued from Page 1

Force researchers on a \$6 million study on the changing shape of Americans. As part of it, more than 5,000 volunteers nationwide are being measured in more than 100 ways with laser technology. The study, the most elaborate of its kind in decades, is being sponsored by about two dozen top companies in virtually every industry where knowing the width of Americans is vital: General Motors, Ford, Boeing, Lévi Strauss, even Caterpillar tractors.

"Nothing like this has been done in a long time," said Gary Pollak, a co-ordinator of the three-year study. "Everyone senses the shape of Americans is changing, but we really need to know exactly how."

That they are getting heavier is hardly a secret. A number of recent government and university studies have warned of the trend. Some have reported that the average daily calorie intake of men and women is rising sharply, that more than half the country's adults are overweight and as many as one-third obese — figures much higher than decades ago.

The weight increases are apparent, to varying degrees, in every region of the country. And with baby boomers settling in to the weight-gaining prime of middle age and many teenagers tearing into endless "super-size" fast-food meals, across the nation are expected to tip even more in the years ahead.

For seatmakers and companies who are their clients, the implications are profound.

"We don't want someone sitting in one of our cars or trucks being remedied every day that they're getting bigger," said Marilyn Valu, an analyst for Lear Corp., which designs seats for some of the nation's leading automotive manufacturers. "Across the industry, we're realizing that with demographics and sizes changing, we're going to have to be more accommodating."

Kevin McGuire, who runs a national consulting firm that advises performing arts centers on seating, said that industry has begun to learn the same lesson.

At his urging, the restoration of Seattle's old Cinerama theater includes a few dozen seats 24 inches wide and tailored for the obese. Many other seats in the theater also will have armrests that

lift and more space between rows, all to make bigger people comfortable. Mr. McGuire is even training staff members in how to make subtle overtures to obese patrons who might not be aware of the special seating available to them at the theater.

"More of my clients definitely are starting to understand that more people are having a difficult time getting into seats," Mr. McGuire said.

But some seating critics say the signs of change evident here in Seattle are still the exception. In many industries, providing bigger seats often means having fewer customers and thus earning less profit.

Space in some new sports arenas is even getting tighter. To pack in more fans — and to make more money to keep up with escalating player salaries — some arenas are slacking seating rows closer together and offering seats that are wider than 18 inches only to their "premium" ticket subscribers.

"Our society is changing, but our seats aren't really changing with it yet," said Vicki Wood, the vice president of the Washington state chapter of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance. "Most fat people don't want to draw attention to themselves by making a big issue of this, but it should be obvious that more people are uncomfortable."

Even analysts in industries that depend on fitting people into seats say the measurements they use are a bit vague, or becoming obsolete. Mr. Pollak said that the main reason so many prominent companies were paying so much for a new study on Americans' size was that they were losing confidence that their seats fit customers' needs.

"They all want new averages so they can feel more secure with new products," he said.

Doug Oswald, who manages product research and design at American Seating, a leading manufacturer of bus and stadium seats, said that standards the company has used for years were being revamped. For example, the company introduced a new office chair last year that is two inches wider than previous models.

"The population has grown faster than the products being designed," he said. "Everyone is trying to catch up."

REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE**Announcement of Privatisation By International Public Tender of State Owned Financial Sector Institutions**

The Unidade de Coordenação do Projeto de Privatizações e Regulação Institucional (Privatisation Unit) of the Republic of Cape Verde, in accordance with the Law on Privatisation of the Republic of Cape Verde, Decree Law 70/98 and Resolution 74/98 of 31st December, 1998 announces the sale, by international public tender, of state owned shares in three (3) financial sector institutions with interlocking shareholdings, according to the following criteria and terms: (i) as a financial group, or (ii) as three separate individual institutions, and/or (iii) any combination thereof.

Name	Type of Institution	No of State Owned Shares	No of Shares for this bid	% of Institution for this bid
BCA	Commercial Bank	775,000	525,000	52.50
GARANTIA	Insurance Company	96,620	91,789	45.895*
PROMOTORA	Venture Capital Company	255,000	180,000	40,000*

*The Government will contractually ensure that management control will be held by the successful bidder

The bid package containing the *Confidential Information Memoranda* and other pertinent bid documents may be acquired at a cost of **Euro 20,000 Euros** from the Privatisation Unit (UPR) at Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, telephone (238) 61 23 19. Fax (238) 61 23 34. email: cypprivatization@mail.cvtelecom.cv

Any request of information, questions or clarification regarding the bidding process may be addressed to the Bid Committee at the Privatisation Unit, at the above indicated address.

The bid proposals must be submitted by **16h00**, local time on Friday, **July 9, 1999**, at the office of the Privatisation Unit, Largo do Cruzeiro - Ténis, Praia, Cabo Verde, in wax sealed envelopes according to the instructions contained in the Resolution n°74/98 of December 31, 1998, published in the official gazette n°48. Serie I.

The bid proposals opening session will take place at **10h00**, local time on Monday, **12th July, 1999** in the Ministry of Finance, Praia, Cabo Verde.

Now you can call from Europe, Africa, Asia or the Americas with one phone: the new Ericsson IS88 World. This phone operates both on the GSM 900 and the GSM 1900 networks. Thanks to the infrared link and built in PC-card, you can connect the IS88 World to your laptop without any wires. thereby you get access to the Internet, your e-mail and faxes.

ERICSSON

EUROPE/INTERNATIONAL

Prodi to Have Wide, New Powers as Head of the European Commission

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — With support from European governments and extensive new responsibilities, Romano Prodi seemed assured on Thursday of becoming virtually the prime minister of the European Union.

European leaders made it clear at a special summit meeting here on Wednesday that they expected Mr. Prodi, the president-designate of the European Commission, to be a strong and independent leader.

As a former Italian prime minister, Mr. Prodi has the advantage of having shared the top table with all of the current EU heads of state and government. European governments respect him as a capable leader who turned around the Italian economy and made the country eligible to join the European single currency.

As someone who also transformed the Italian tax system and began the Herculean task of reforming its civil service, Mr. Prodi is seen as

the person to introduce radical changes at the commission.

He faces a daunting array of tasks, starting with cleaning up the inefficiencies of the commission itself, and rooting out dubious practices that led the present commission to resign collectively last month.

Mr. Prodi will also be a key player in the eventual political and economic reconstruction of the Balkan region. And he will have the job of leading the European Union from a single currency to a single economy, with inevitably a greater degree of shared political decision-making.

Mr. Prodi has defined the three watchwords of his future administration as efficiency, openness and accountability, which happen to be what the member governments and the European Parliament are demanding. If he succeeds in meeting these demands, the commission could emerge with enhanced powers and reputation.

But while he will be expected to increase the ability and efficiency of the commission as the motor of European integration, he will have to do

so in a way that does not impinge on the jealously guarded sovereign rights of the individual member states. After an amiable dinner with the other leaders Wednesday, he said that he would confine the work of the commission to "only a few important things," respecting the so-called principle of subsidiarity, in which decisions are made at the lowest possible level.

Mr. Prodi said he would begin putting together his team immediately after his confirmation by the European Parliament early next month. He will then present the entire commission for confirmation by the new Parliament, to be elected in June, at its first sitting late in July, meaning that the new executive will not be in place until August or even September.

Mr. Prodi said he and government leaders had begun drawing up profiles of the kind of people they want on the new commission, without as yet naming specific names.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany said that the commission would no longer be considered a parking lot for political has-beens.

He said that future commissioners would be selected on the basis of their economic and political skills, as was Mr. Prodi.

New commissioners will also have to be acceptable to the new president, who, under the Amsterdam treaty about to come into effect, has powers of co-decision with governments in choosing the new commission and may reject or fire commissioners.

As the recognized leader of the commission, rather than a first among equals like his predecessor, Jacques Santer, Mr. Prodi also reject anyone he does not like, and will be able to dismiss commissioners who do not live up to expectations.

In choosing the former prime minister of Luxembourg, Mr. Santer, to head the commission five years ago, governments signaled a turning away from the period of ambitious market and economic reforms introduced by his predecessor, Jacques Delors, whose policy had been to introduce programs first and worry later about financing them and carrying them out.

Mr. Santer's administration has been more low-key and technocratic, and in the opinion of many analysts did a first-rate job in introducing the single currency. But governments now seem to be looking to Mr. Prodi to give the commission a higher political profile.

Mr. Santer advised his successor-designate to beware of taking on fresh responsibilities without first making sure that governments are prepared to foot the bill. One problem of the Santer commission has been that it has constantly been given new tasks to perform without the corresponding resources in manpower or cash. To carry out its tasks, it has often had to turn to outside agencies, and it is in this area in particular that allegations of corruption and nepotism have arisen.

In the meantime, despite opposition in the Parliament, the present commission remains in place in a caretaker capacity. Mr. Santer will have to step down in July if, as expected, he wins a seat in the Parliament, since the commission recently adopted a code of conduct banning double mandates.

Britain Authorizes Start Of Pinochet Extradition

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The British government on Thursday authorized the start of extradition proceedings against General Augusto Pinochet, significantly increasing the likelihood that the former Chilean dictator will have to face charges of torture in court.

The ruling by Home Secretary Jack Straw, Britain's highest law enforcement official, dashed the hopes of Mr. Pinochet's supporters that he might be freed because of a British court decision last month that dismissed all but three of the 32 charges for which a Spanish judge had sought his extradition.

Mr. Straw made clear that the remaining charges were sufficient and that the Spanish extradition request was well-founded. He concluded that Mr. Pinochet "does not enjoy immunity in relation to the extradition crimes of conspiracy to torture and torture," the Home Office said in a statement.

[President Eduardo Frei of Chile said Thursday that Chilean justice must prevail in the case of Mr. Pinochet. Agence France-Presse reported from Berlin.]

The slow progress of the judicial process clearly shows that the Chilean government is right to demand that the British and Spanish governments let Chilean democracy deal with its past itself," said Mr. Frei, who was on a visit to Germany.]



Home Secretary Jack Straw authorized the start of extradition proceedings against General Pinochet.

1988, when Britain signed an international convention against torture.

The ruling eliminated most of the Spanish charges, which stemmed from the earlier years of Mr. Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule. Lord Browne-Wilkinson, who chaired the seven-member panel of Law Lords, urged Mr. Straw to reconsider his earlier decision to allow extradition to proceed.

But after studying fresh representations from all parties, Mr. Straw decided that extradition hearings should proceed. Significantly, he said he looked at the pre-1988 charges where they were relevant to the charges from later years, a fact that human rights groups said could help prosecutors establish a conspiracy to torture.

With Only One Candidate, Algerians Shun the Polls

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

ALGIERS — Algerian voters stayed home in droves Thursday as the lone presidential candidate, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, was expected to coast to what one Algiers newspaper headline called "victory by default."

Algeria's first presidential election in four years, seen by many only days ago as a promising opening to democracy in the authoritarian North African state, lay in tatters on election day following a last-minute decision Wednesday by all six of Mr. Bouteflika's opponents to end their candidacies.

They charged fraud by the outgoing president, Lamine Zeroual, and the generals who govern behind him — ballot-stuffing and other irregularities designed to give Mr. Bouteflika enough votes to avoid a runoff election he might have lost.

State-run radio put the turnout at 6 P.M. at above 50 percent, but that figure was not considered by election watchers to be necessarily reliable, let alone indicative of what official Algerian government figures might turn out to be.

The withdrawal of the six opposition candidates, including three with substantial popular support, did not stop some of Algeria's 17.5 million registered voters from choosing one of them anyway.

"I voted because I'm Algerian. It's my job," said Rabah Belamri, a law student who said he voted for one of the six. "They can't say they're not canadians. They campaigned."

Many, possibly most, voted for Mr. Bouteflika, a former foreign minister who left Algeria nearly two decades ago. He was persuaded to run to succeed Mr. Zeroual by several parties close to the government and an important faction of Algeria's military leaders. The army is an important institution in Algeria, born of revolution against colonial France in 1962 and tested for much of the '90s by a brutal terrorist insurgency led by Islamic fundamentalist warriors.

"I voted for peace," said an administrative secretary, Farida Chabane, who said she voted for Mr. Bouteflika. She called the withdrawal of the other candidates "shameful — the world is looking at us."

Meriem Akouchi, a 20-year-old student voting for the first time, said she was disappointed at the lack of a choice, but "I was determined to come no matter what. We have suffered too much."

Others who came to the Malek ben Rabia School's polling stations in the bayside Bab-el Oued district of this sprawling, tenement-packed city were more resigned.

"This last-minute thing wrecks everything," said Toufik Faddal, a computer engineer. "It will be very, very difficult for Bouteflika to govern."

But these people were apparently in the minority who turned up at polling stations, which were also empty of representatives of the six. Such was the sense of inevitability that in this school only 4 of the 12 voting rooms had Mr. Bouteflika's representatives on hand.

"A single candidate! What a disappointment for Algeria," said Adhame Mendjou, otherwise unemployed, who worked Thursday as an independent polling station assistant.

"It'll be the same regime," he said. "The same power. Always the same faces."

Only one of this year's original seven candidates did not hold some prior position in a previous government — a fact that suggests the limitations of what pluralism realistically means in Algeria.

Down by the beach, in an open-air cafe, a young man named Taleh lounged in a Nike cap and Champion windbreaker, not bothering to vote. "It's been decided already," he said. "There's no need to vote."

Taleh is part of several huge Algerian populations today: nonvoting, unemployed, young. Algeria's population has more than doubled since the 1970s, and 70 percent of its people are under 30.

Mr. Bouteflika would not be sworn in as president until next Wednesday or Thursday, but his ability to govern will be tested immediately.

A few of the six candidates announced a march in central Algiers for Friday, the Muslim holy day, to protest the way the election turned out. Such an assembly under fast-breaking political circumstances is at best unpredictable, possibly prone to scattered provocations and violence.

Israeli Court Sentences Deri

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Can a key Israeli power broker still make and break governments from a jail cell?

That was the question here Thursday when an Israeli court sentenced Aryeh Deri, a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to a four-year prison term for corruption.

A three-judge panel found that Mr. Deri, 40, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Sephardic Shas Party, was guilty of a "dishonorable" crime. Under Israeli law, that prevents him from serving as a government minister for the next 10 years.

But he can still run for Parliament as the head of the third-largest party in Israel. He can still negotiate his party's place in a coalition government after elections May 17, if the government is willing to make deals with a convicted felon.

Mr. Deri, who faced a maximum sentence of 21 years, said he would appeal to the Supreme Court. If he does, the lower court has agreed to suspend his sentence until the appeal is decided. In most cases, that would take about 18 months.

The effect on Shas is unclear, but simply losing or gaining a seat in Parliament — it now has 10 of 120 seats — could change its status as a coalition partner in any future government.

Anthony Newley, Co-Writer Of 'Stop the World,' Dies at 67

The Associated Press

STUART, Florida — Anthony Newley, 67, a British entertainer known for the stage hit "Stop the World" — I Want To Get Off" and the 1967 film version of the children's classic "Doctor Dolittle," died Wednesday of cancer.

The actor, playwright, composer, lyricist and singer was first diagnosed in 1985 with renal cell cancer and had one kidney removed. After years of good health, the cancer returned in 1997.

Mr. Newley, former husband of the actress Joan Collins, shot to fame as the Artful Dodger in the 1948 film version of "Oliver Twist."

During his heyday, he had a series of hit records, appeared in a string of films and was a frequent performer in Las Vegas.

Mr. Newley co-wrote the score for the hit musicals "Stop The World" — I Want To Get Off," "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory" and "The Roar of The Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd."

Nicola Trussardi, 56, Designer Of Luxury Accessories in Italy

The Associated Press

MILAN — Nicola Trussardi, 56, whose luxury accessories made him one of Italy's most popular fashion designers, died Wednesday after being severely injured in a car crash.

Police were investigating the crash,

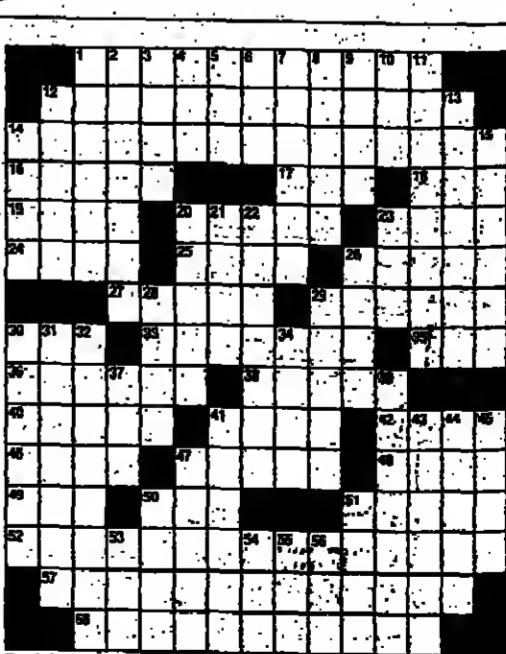
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Court systems
- Bailed out in a manner of speaking
- Principle of economy
- Individual shares
- It may be red or black
- Satirical site
- Move
- Influences
- Other and others
- In bridge, the player on the dealer's right
- Fuse sound
- Depth charge
- Cow
- Like the Godhead
- 14-Across, e.g.
- Hit as a Texas leaguer
- Early Plains building material
- Bonds after splitting
- Amass
- Scrub
- Engender
- Top-selling pop group of the 70's
- Tanning need
- Works with visual effects
- Park place?
- Singer DiFranco
- Flight datum: Abb.
- Like some statistics
- Become livid
- Commit oneself, in a way
- Leads

DOWN

- Like a news bulletin
- Pronounced
- Suck passers?
- Motor
- Capt. of industry
- Left end?
- 1990's Coca-Cola slogan
- Some stations
- Has no life
- Mass setting
- Deeply felt
- Poetic chapter
- One who gets high?
- Mud dauber, e.g.
- Experienced
- Cantors' places
- Dipsomaniac
- Port in Oregon
- Justice Dept. division
- Literary variant of Hindustani
- Be an accessory to
- Position
- Popay's female foe in early comics
- White elephants, e.g.
- Stork with a featherless head
- Persian output
- Grand ("Evangeline" setting)
- Untroubled
- Track event
- Lighter fill
- Uncomfortable neckwear
- Not impotent
- Two-tone treats
- Great
- Curtainlike partitions, biologically
- T-shirt size: Abb.
- Highest
- Caré alternative
- Like some cats



Puzzle by Jones-Wright

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Casualties in Kosovo

One more horrifying image from the war in Kosovo: civilians attacked as they made their painful way, on tractor and cart, along a rural road, Serbian officials, whose record leaves them without credibility, say they were bombed by NATO planes; NATO says they may have been attacked by Serbian troops after a NATO bombardment.

In either case, they illustrate NATO's dilemma. If can bomb Serbia's military infrastructure, slowly eroding Slobodan Milošević's aggressive capability, but doing little in the short term to protect the people of Kosovo from Mr. Milošević's atrocities. Or it can attack the tanks and other forces directly threatening those people, thereby putting at risk not only its pilots but also the civilians whom Serbian troops are cynically using as shields.

It is worth stepping back and recalling why this dilemma exists — why those civilians were fleeing down a rural road in the first place. Mr. Milošević has for more than a year been waging a savage war against the ethnic Albanian men, women and children who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's population. Using murder, rape and robbery as routine tools of terror, his forces have now put most of that population to flight. A half-million have been expelled from Kosovo. Hundreds of thousands more remain inside, many

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Starr's Bad Advice

The renewal of the Independent Counsel Act should not be a referendum on Kenneth Starr and his conduct in office. Nor should Congress or the American people take Mr. Starr's advice on the future of the law. Mr. Starr, having been empowered under the act to investigate the Clintons for nearly five years, believes that the statute should not be renewed when it expires in June. His comments before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee had an odd self-pitying quality. He blames the law for flaws that were, in fact, the fault of his investigation. His lack of prosecutorial experience, his tin ear for public relations and his conflicts of interest have had a great deal to do with causing the law to fall into disrepute.

Mr. Starr argues that the law has not achieved its main purpose, which is to provide the public with confidence in a fair, nonpartisan means to investigate high-ranking executive branch officials. Mr. Starr said Wednesday, "If politicization and the loss of public confidence are inevitable, then we should leave the full responsibility where our laws and traditions place it, on the attorney general" — and on Congress.

But politicization and loss of confidence are not inevitable, nor can these problems be blamed exclusively on the independent counsel law. They were in large measure peculiar to the Starr investigation.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Kevorkian's Sentence

That was a harsh sentence a Michigan judge imposed on Dr. Jack Kevorkian this week for his murder conviction in the "mercy killing" of a seriously ill patient. Some may think that a sentence of 10 to 25 years in prison — with the possibility of parole after six years and eight months — is even too harsh, given that Dr. Kevorkian is 70 years old and performing what, from his skewed perspective, was an act of conscience. But quibbling over whether the sentence should have been a few years lighter pales against the important message sent by Judge Jessica Cooper's tough sentence and blistering statement to Dr. Kevorkian.

No one can openly flout the law on murder and expect to get away with it.

In this case, Dr. Kevorkian moved from giving patients the means to kill themselves to personally administering the lethal injection. As part of his increasingly reckless campaign to promote assisted suicide and euthanasia to end the suffering of desperately ill patients, he provided CBS's "60 Minutes" with a videotape in which he ended the life of Thomas Youk, a victim of Lou Gehrig's disease. Dr. Kevorkian virtually dared the legal system to try to stop him — and that is what has now happened.

True, Mr. Youk and his family had sought Dr. Kevorkian's assistance as a way to end the patient's suffering. That

— THE BOSTON GLOBE.

Other Comment

No single country will be more crucial to U.S. interests in the coming century than China, so it is folly to pretend that there is any realistic alternative to a policy of engagement with Beijing. U.S. leaders have little choice but to mold relations in ways that are best suited to promote Asian security, nuclear nonproliferation and the vitality of the global economy. The path to a strategic partnership is open. If it is hinged, Washington could transform an aspiring partner into a dangerous rival.

— The Boston Globe.

Herald Tribune

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92321 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
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Internet address: <http://www.iht.com> E-Mail: info@iht.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Hornbostel
5 Canterbury Rd, Singapore 119001 Tel: (65) 472-7788 Fax: (65) 274-2333

Managing Director, Asia: Ngai Yee Ong
#1201, 191 Jalan Raja, Kuala Lumpur, Tel: (603) 902-1148 Fax: 832-2922-1140

General Manager, Europe: The Americas: Michael Gersh
Friedrichstrasse 15, 80333 Frankfurt Tel: +49 69 971 2500 Fax: +49 69 971 2500-20

Regional Director, The Americas: Michael Gersh
850 Third Ave, New York, NY 10022 Tel: (212) 752-3800 Fax: (212) 752-3875

UK Advertising Office: 30 March Wall, London E14 9TF Tel: (171) 572-3451 Fax: (171) 587-3451

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There's Still Hope for Civil Society in Malaysia

The writer is a former finance minister and deputy prime minister of Malaysia. On Wednesday, he was found guilty of corruption and sentenced to six years in prison. He contributed this commentary to *The New York Times*.

KUALA LUMPUR — East Asia's current distress over moral and economic choices is reminiscent of the crisis that gripped Europe and America about three-quarters of a century ago.

In 1933, Germany and the United States took different paths out of the Great Depression. Franklin Roosevelt was inaugurated president and promised a New Deal. In Germany, Hitler and the Nazis became a legitimate force in Parliament.

There is much for Asians to learn from that chapter of Western history. The economic crisis that began in July 1997 has brought about our own Great Depression. Economic troubles have engendered a political crisis of confidence, pitting ancient regimes against a generation eager for change as it looks forward to a truly democratic Asia.

Some countries have already chosen to go with President Kim Dae Jung's

Rooseveltian reforms. In Indonesia, an aged dictator has been forced out, and new leaders will be chosen in the first free elections in more than 30 years.

Thailand, too, is reforming, and its democracy is strengthening. President Joseph Estrada confounds his critics as he keeps the Philippines track toward reform.

Oddly, it is in Malaysia, once the most stable of Southeast Asian nations, that a prime minister is trying to block the tide. Mahathir bin Mohamad, 73, sees himself as the only person alive who can lead Malaysia out of the economic crisis.

According to his reasoning, there was absolutely nothing wrong with his policies. Things were perfect before "outside forces" — George Soros, Jews, the International Monetary Fund, Washington, Wall Street — jealous of Asian success and buoyant for new colonies, came and spoiled it all. Those who disagreed and called for reform were denounced as traitors and lackeys of Western powers.

I became dangerous because as fi-

ance minister I would not do Mr. Mahathir's "business as usual" and as a politician I had widespread support for my work toward democracy and civil society. So I was accused of sex crimes, treason and corruption and expelled from government and party.

Instead of scorning me, as they were meant to, many Malaysians were outraged and began to see in Mr. Mahathir a leader who had descended to cruelty in a desperate bid to cling to power.

Eventually, on Sept. 20, 1998, Mr. Mahathir ordered me arrested. That night, blindfolded and handcuffed, I suffered Gestapo-style violence at the hands of the inspector-general of police, who aimed his punches and karate chops at lethal areas. I was then abandoned for nearly a week, part of it in a dungeon, without medical attention.

Six months after I appeared in public with my wounds, which Mr. Mahathir said could have been self-inflicted, the inspector-general confessed to his crime. That this man still walks free, while I am jailed for "abuse of office," shows how far Mr. Mahathir has taken Malaysia down the abyss of injustice.

I had to be demolished so Mr. Mahathir's slide from power could be stopped.

Falsely accusing me of sex crimes alone might not have worked, so he threw in "puppet of Washington" and "CIA agent." The U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, unwittingly inspired this spy fiction by greeting me with a 19-year salute when I went to Washington in the spring of 1998. The event is cited as proof that I am an American mole.

Given Malaysia's political culture, it was just a matter of time before ambitious politicians jumped onto the bandwagon of xenophobia. But so far nothing has matched the bizarre claims of two cabinet members that the United States or some other foreign power waged biological warfare by introducing into Malaysia a deadly virus that is wreaking havoc in the country.

Such insults to the public's intelligence are a major reason for the increasing popularity of the "reformasi" movement, which emerged spontaneously upon my sacking and recently gave birth to a multiracial political organization that my wife heads.

We believe that the new party, in cooperation with other opposition groups, will help pull Malaysia out of the morass and pave the way toward civil society.

Solutions for Kosovo Are Being Overtaken by Events

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Three weeks of war have made much of the allied plans and diplomacy what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright calls "O.B.E." — Overtaken By Events. The Rambouillet agreement, which the Albanian Kosovars signed reluctantly and which the powers set out to bomb Slobodan Milošević into accepting, will no longer do.

It provided for disarming the Kosovo Liberation Army, leaving about 5,000 Serbian soldiers in the province and Serbian control of its frontiers. For NATO to accept that now, even if Mr. Milošević allows some kind of international protection force for Kosovar civilians, would be to grant him victory.

But it is not clear what NATO will consider adequate concessions to stop its attacks. The momentum of the war has imposed some questions that did not have to be addressed before.

The Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, has not been defeated, according to NATO briefers and the French defense minister, Alain Richard, who said it had withdrawn into the mountains. Its supply lines run across the Albanian border, the obvious reason for Serbian action in the region. Because of the vast number of refugees and the virtual absence of Albanian military or police organization in the area, NATO is sending 8,000 troops into northern Albania. Their job is humanitarian, not combat, but now they become responsible for the border.

They can try to block the passage of military supplies and volunteers, which would make them in effect local allies of the Serbian forces. They can help with the difficult logistics that would put them on the KLA side. Or they can pretend not to notice. "This is a political decision which NATO hasn't taken yet," Mr. Richard told a press group in Paris this week.

It is another example of the way facts on the ground change the context of seemingly theoretical issues argued out by diplomats, and reshape the questions they must face. Until now, there was allied consensus not to recognize the Kosovar demand for independence, not to support the KLA, not to open any questions of sovereignty and borders.

But willy-nilly, the allies are being drawn into dealing with the KLA, which can provide the only on-the-ground intelligence at this point. The KLA soldiers are an assorted group who have been described as former Marxists, fanatics, thugs and adamantine nationalists, but the war is bringing a flow of patriotic recruits, both from within the country and from the substantial Kosovar diaspora abroad.

What kind of leadership will emerge if and when the fighting stops is quite unclear. Unfortunately, it probably cannot be the widely admired Ibrahim Rugova, the pacifist who prevented open violence for so long, because Mr. Milošević has isolated him and tainted him with nonresistance.

The arguments for seeking a way to back out of this increasingly irrational trap deserve a hearing. A well-informed

is all a vicious anti-Serb plot.

My friend calls for another diplomatic initiative, relying on the Russians as intermediaries, as the only way out. Providing what? There is no answer because the middle ground, the respectful compromise that Rambouillet tried to conjure up, has been lost. The alternatives — a major land invasion or, short of that, an intensive program to arm and train the KLA — have been proposed and so far rejected as politically unacceptable. In any case, it would take a few months for either to begin to have effect, and what is to be done in the meantime?

Just keep bombing, says President Bill Clinton, and so far all the allies agree. The United States, providing the

bulk of the force and the weight of decision-making, is increasingly blamed. There is a curious reaction in France where a very large majority support NATO bombing, according to polls, and at the same time express anti-American views. This attitude may well spread.

It is painful and frustrating to be in a position of waiting to be O.B.E. because acceptable answers to the current dilemma are not available and events are changing the questions: What is to become of the people? What is the fate of the land? But it is better to hold out for now than to plunge into dramatic escalation through impatience or to sink away in defeat, which would be unconscionable.

Flora Lewis

A People Who Deserve Independence

By Nicholas X. Rizopoulos

GARDEN CITY, New York

— Step by reluctant step, the Clinton administration has been forced to confront the ugly reality on the ground in Kosovo. It is responding to Slobodan Milošević's thuggery, and to the resulting human tragedy and regional destabilization by the belated application of military force.

But having waited too long to even begin doing the right thing, and having prevaricated and confused the ill-informed American public as to its policy goals, President Bill Clinton's foreign policy team apparently is still reluctant to take the necessary steps:

• To commit immediately,

along with its NATO allies, large numbers of ground troops for an indefinite period — in the process expelling from Kosovo most Serbian military and security forces while at least temporarily disarming all Kosovo Liberation Army units except those needed for normal policing.

• To declare publicly that neither the United States nor its allies will ever again deal — or negotiate — with a Yugoslav government led by Slobodan Milošević; indeed, that Mr. Milošević and a number of his associates are officially considered to be war criminals.

• To engage the United Nations and its appropriate agencies in a massive effort of refugee aid, repatriation and rehabilitation once a modicum of security has been re-established within Kosovo's borders.

• To admit publicly that, at this late hour, and especially in light of what has transpired during the past 12 months, all talk about forcing the Albanian Kosovars to accept autonomous status within Serbia is but a cruel joke. It must be made clear that full independence for Kosovo is by this point both unavoidable and desirable.

It is absurd to argue that a "tiny" new republic of Kosovo cannot become a viable sovereign entity or survive in such a "dangerous neighborhood." If that were so, how does one explain the international community's eagerness to support and sustain the equally tiny Republic of Macedonia?

But of course the problem is not really about size, location or economic self-sufficiency. Rather, it has to do with outdated notions of sovereignty, of who deserves to be a member of the sovereign club (particularly if economy will reap the benefit).

Today, anyone with a PC and a modem can be networked into supercomputing centers at numerous universities. The notion that raw computing power can and should be controlled has been made anachronistic by modern technology.

The challenge is to reform the export control system so that it is controlling truly sensitive information and not commercial commodities that can easily be purchased elsewhere.

Simply raising performance levels every six months will only lead to the export control version of a fire drill every time a new chip hits the market. We need instead to develop a fundamental philosophy on export controls that is in tune with the technological, economic and security realities of the future.

The writer, vice president of governmental programs at IBM Corp., contributed this comment to *The Washington Post*.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: British Sports

PARIS — The Libre Parole says: "The representatives of our traditional sports are asking to protest against the importation of British sports, which, far from developing grace, strength and skill, result only, they say, in exciting in them the most complete contempt of mind without any benefit to the body. The old French sports, such as fencing, shooting and gymnastics, were real arts, and charming arts. The sports from across the Channel, on the other hand, generally only aim at brutal exercises, such as football, or stupid and dangerous struggles, like footracing."

1949: Japan's Women

TOKYO — A young farmer complained that Japanese women have taken "democracy" to mean they can stage drinking bouts and tell dirty jokes. Taro Suzuki said he favored equal rights for women, but he urged that they retain their decorum. Mr. Suzuki said his mother recently attended a village women's meeting to elect officers. He said that after the election one of the officers observed that whenever men had such meetings they always wind it up with drinking. "We have the same rights now as they have, so why don't we drink?" she asked.

Technology Outpaces Restraints

By Christopher G. Caine

microprocessor. Today's state-of-the-art supercomputers are 100,000 times faster still.

When it comes to export controls, the U.S. government relies on a measure of computer speed, known as MTOPS, or millions of operational operations per second. The current record holder for supercomputers — built by IBM for the Lawrence Livermore National

For U.S. Corporate Taxes, The Trend Is Downward

By Floyd Norris

NEW YORK — As the procrastinators among us sent in our U.S. tax returns this week, there were a few certainties: Well-off Americans will be paying a lot, but the companies whose stock they own — and whose success may have made those people rich — will pay much less than they would have a generation ago.

That trend is an international one, reflecting the fact that in an increasingly global economy, it is much easier for companies to pick up and move. Today, both states and nations are more likely than

the two longest economic expansions in U.S. history — the one from 1961 through 1969 and the current one, which began in 1991. During the 1960s boom, corporate income-tax collections peaked at 4.2 percent of GDP, twice the current level. But individual income-tax collections never got as high as the current figure, about 9.9 percent of GDP.

Just how you view the downward trend of corporate taxes depends on your politics. To many on the left, and some on the right, it demonstrates "corporate welfare" that lets powerful companies avoid paying their fair share. Most congressional Republicans ignore the drop in corporate tax collections, however, while railing against the rising overall level of taxes.

But Republicans have been stunned to see how indifferent voters are to calls for tax cuts this year. In part, that reflects President Bill Clinton's success in making those who call for lower taxes appear to be endangering Medicare and Social Security.

But it also reflects the fact that changes in tax law have made it more certain that high-income taxpayers will pay more while moderate-income families are hit less. Thanks largely to the \$500-per-child tax credit, a family of four earning the national median income now faces a lower effective tax rate than at any time since the 1960s.

In the current boom, the number of people with high incomes has soared. In 1992, just under a million tax returns showed adjusted gross income of more than \$200,000. In 1996, the last year for which data are available, that number rose by more than 50 percent.

The increase reflects surging capital gains and stock-option profits for corporate executives, and taxes on that income help explain why tax receipts have been higher than expected in recent years.

For the government, there is a risk in growing increasingly reliant on stock market-generated profits. If those profits stop coming, tax receipts could be surprisingly small. But for now, both the rich and the government are raking in the cash.

The New York Times.

ever to use reduced taxes as a means to lure corporate employers.

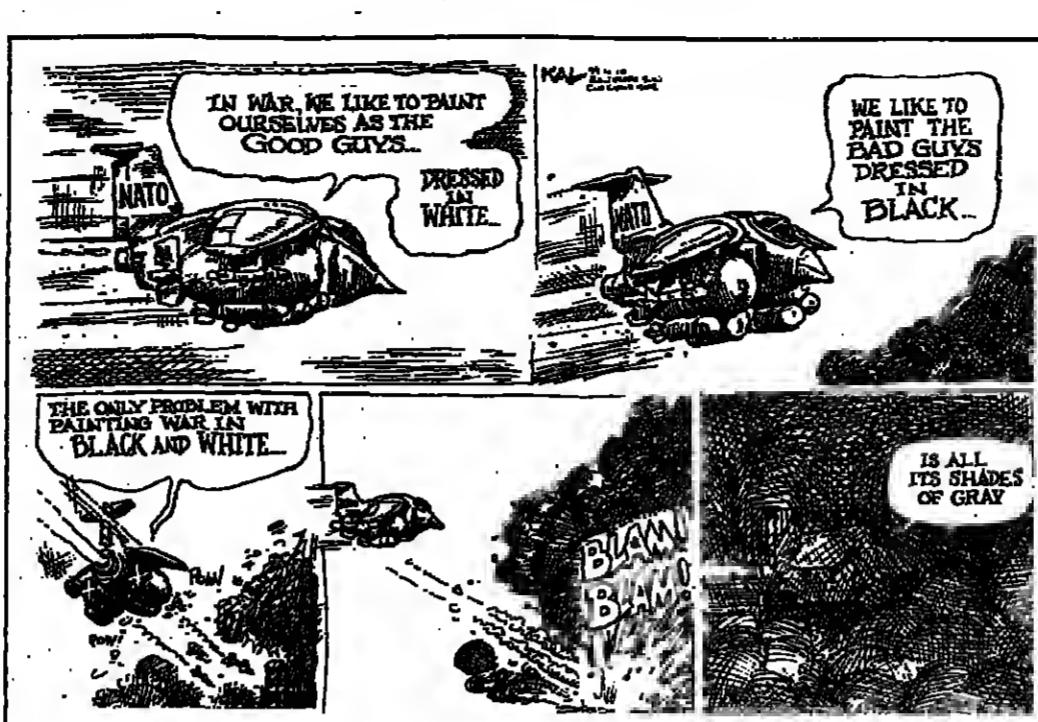
"Even small variations in local tax rates may have important effects on capital flows and, by implication, on the economy as a whole," reported James Hines Jr., an economist now at the University of Michigan, after studying U.S. investment flows.

In Europe, Ireland has achieved rapid growth by offering low corporate taxes. That infuriated Oscar Lafontaine, the former German finance minister, who wanted to raise taxes on German business. Before Mr. Lafontaine lost his job in a power struggle, he was pushing for "tax harmonization" within Europe as a way to force Ireland to raise its taxes.

Instead, with Mr. Lafontaine gone, Germany is likely to cut corporate tax rates while also reducing preferences that have allowed favored companies and industries to pay relatively low taxes while those in other industries are hit hard.

To be sure, at any given tax rate corporate income-tax payments fluctuate with the economy, falling in recessions and rising when business is good. American companies are expected to pay income taxes equal to 2.1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product this year, up from 1.6 percent in the recession year of 1990.

But the overall trend can be seen more clearly by comparing



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Milosevic and Instinct

Regarding "Does Territoriality Drive Human Aggression?" (Meanwhile, April 14) by Steven Levington:

Mr. Levington's notion that Robert Ardrey's theory of human territorial aggression can be applied to the crisis in Kosovo is absurd and historically flawed.

The theory does not explain why the American Indians, the Hungarians, the Turks and the Moravians, among others, have not exhibited the same degree of aggression (as Slobodan Milosevic) "to possess and defend territory they believe belongs exclusively to them." The theory's simplistic and primitive view of the fall of France (and by implication the invasion of Czechoslovakia) fails to take into consideration the complex political and social forces behind those events.

The most dangerous aspect of the theory, as applied by Mr. Levington, is that it seems to excuse Mr. Milosevic's behavior by implying that his policies are driven by some "innate" human trait. Mr. Milosevic is a war criminal, is entirely responsible for his actions and should be brought to justice for his crimes. Mr. Levington should not insult the rest of humankind nor the various species of the animal kingdom by suggesting that Mr. Milosevic's barbaric tactics are based on "in-

stinct" for defending "his" territory.

JUDITH HENDERSHOTT
London.

It is unfortunate that, in the midst of Yugoslavia's current horrors, Mr. Levington would dredge up Mr. Ardrey's silly musings on aggression.

Of course human beings belong to the animal kingdom, but unlike the animal kingdom, they live and communicate through symbolic worlds of their own making. They do not defend their territories the way all other animals do, only in the way we humans do.

Human aggression is not instinctual. It is no more "innate" than human love and kindness. Hence human aggression is inexcusable in a way that animal aggression is not. To think otherwise is to spurn us humans from the responsibility for the world as we make it — and as we should aspire to improve it.

SIDNEY W. MINTZ
Hong Kong.

The writer is a visiting professor of anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

War and Rock 'n' Roll

Regarding "War's On. Where's the Music Gone?" (Meanwhile, April 13) by Salman Rushdie:

Mr. Rushdie's sentimental ode

to rock 'n' roll as the music of freedom ignores the expanded needs that this genre of music serves. In addition to the great musicians who sang for the '60s freedom movement, there are uncountable others associated with every possible type of politics.

The "patriotic" free concert staged in Belgrade by Slobodan Milosevic's regime is the most recent example of music as propaganda. The unhappy truth is that music is merely a danceable beat and a memorable refrain that can be attached to any ideology from freedom to fascism and all the insipid materialism in between.

BROOKS DAVERMAN
Angers, France.

On U.S.-China Tensions

Regarding "U.S.-China Tensions Are Bad News for the Economies of Asia" (Opinion, April 2) by Alan Dupont:

Mr. Dupont's fear that the United States and China may be headed toward an extended period of conflict is overblown. The Clinton administration clearly plans to stick to its policy of engagement.

But the United States and China may begin to build mutual trust only if America identifies its national and strategic interest in a peaceful and stable Asia and firmly asserts such interest.

JAY T. LOO
Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Keeping the Shirts Ironed As Bombs Fall Back Home

By Samuel Abt

PARIS — The cleaning woman didn't come a couple of Fridays ago, which was unusual. She never misses her visit, one morning every two weeks, usually on Wednesday. This time she suggested a change in days since she was going on vacation for two weeks and her work schedule was a little tight, she explained. Or

MEANWHILE

maybe she didn't — her French is sometimes incomprehensible to me because of her heavy accent.

Not that we talk much. She usually asks about my son, who lived with me a year ago and is now in San Francisco, working in a bank. (She seemed to roll her eyes at that news, remembering the ironing she did for him — was it T-shirts with rock-band emblems, until I explained that his job was as a computer something in the back room.) She always has something to say about the weather too. That's the extent of our chitchat. She comes to work and wants to get right at it.

Basically, she almost pays for herself because the money I save on the shirts she irons — the laundry charges the equivalent of nearly \$3 each — nearly covers what she gets paid for her three-hour shift. She vacuums the apartment, swabs the wooden floors, turns the sink and stove spotless and leaves a whiff of wax behind. She's ferociously honest and an enemy of grime.

I think she's terrific and I hope she thinks I'm at least acceptable. Although I used to tease my mother about cleaning up before the cleaning woman came, with age I do it myself, emptying the ashtrays, leaving no dishes in the sink and dumping the garbage beforehand. When I go on vacation, I usually bring her back a gift, chocolates or a bottle of wine if I've been somewhere in Europe, something American (no, not peanut butter) if I've been home. She always brings me back a bottle of slivovitz if she's spent her vacation at home in Serbia.

Did I mention that she's Serbian? She and her husband live in France and one daughter seems to live in the Loire Valley where she raises turkeys. (Can this be so? Her accent may have confused

things when we had a discussion one Wednesday before Thanksgiving.) The rest of her family including her parents and at least one other daughter, who has children of her own, live in some village near Belgrade.

After she missed her Friday appointment, I assumed I would see her two weeks later after her vacation. But she phoned the following Tuesday to ask if she could come in work Wednesday. I thought you were on vacation, I said. No, she said. Catastrophe.

She arrived at the usual hour and asked about my son and noted that the weather had turned

People like her and her family meant nothing to those who decided to make war.

colder. She took off her shoes, donned her slippers and started to head for the bag of washed shirts.

What catastrophe? I asked dumbly. The bombs, she said, and she began to cry.

Her vacation had been canceled, of course, because who could get into Serbia now? For a few days the phone was out but she had finally reached her daughter near Belgrade. The family was safe although it had to go into the cellar when the planes came over. The house may or may not have been bombed — the accent again. I didn't think I should press the question.

It's just politics, she said. The war machine. People like her and her family meant nothing to those who decided to make war. People like her and me, she said.

Agreeing, I tried to comfort her, and after a while she went off to begin ironing. When it was time for me to go to work myself, I paid her and left her the spare key to lock the door when she was done. We discussed her next visit, in two weeks if she couldn't go on vacation before then.

Do you think the war will end soon? she asked. I said I didn't know.

Do you?

International Herald Tribune.

WHEN HISTORY ASKS WHO STOOD UP TO EVIL IN KOSOVO, THE ANSWER WILL BE: NATO.

The world could see the slaughter coming. Diplomats worked furiously to prevent it — and, for a time, succeeded.

But when Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic, in the name of a nationalism run amok, once again led Serbia to betray its proud anti-Nazi legacy and set an army and police at the throat of the Kosovo Albanians, one international force had the resolve to stand up to Belgrade's policy of barbarism.

NATO, the guarantor of European security for half a century, rose to the challenge of defending Kosovo's ethnic Albanians. Nineteen countries acted in unison to stop the violence against the Kosovars and seek their safe return under international protection.

In this noble mission, NATO must prevail. What is at stake in Kosovo isn't oil or commerce or trading routes. What is at stake are basic principles: human rights, human dignity, the credibility of deterrence, collective security. With determination and courage, NATO weighed the difficult choices and chose to act — because it was right, because the alternative would give

tyrants a green light to terrorize civilian populations and destroy the fabric of international order.

We recognize the sacrifice made by each NATO member to arrest evil in Kosovo. In this dark century, witness to unspeakable acts of inhumanity, we applaud the alliance for taking a principled stand.

To join us in expressing appreciation to the 19 NATO members — Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States — write their Permanent Representatives, c/o NATO Headquarters; Brussels, Belgium. Tell them how much you value their efforts and urge them to stay the course.

History has taught us — or should have taught us — that diplomacy and reason have their limits in dealing with a Milosevic. Sometimes conscience demands the application of force. In these times, as always, we are grateful for NATO.

Sometimes conscience demands the application of force.

France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States — write their Permanent Representatives, c/o NATO Headquarters; Brussels, Belgium. Tell them how much you value their efforts and urge them to stay the course.

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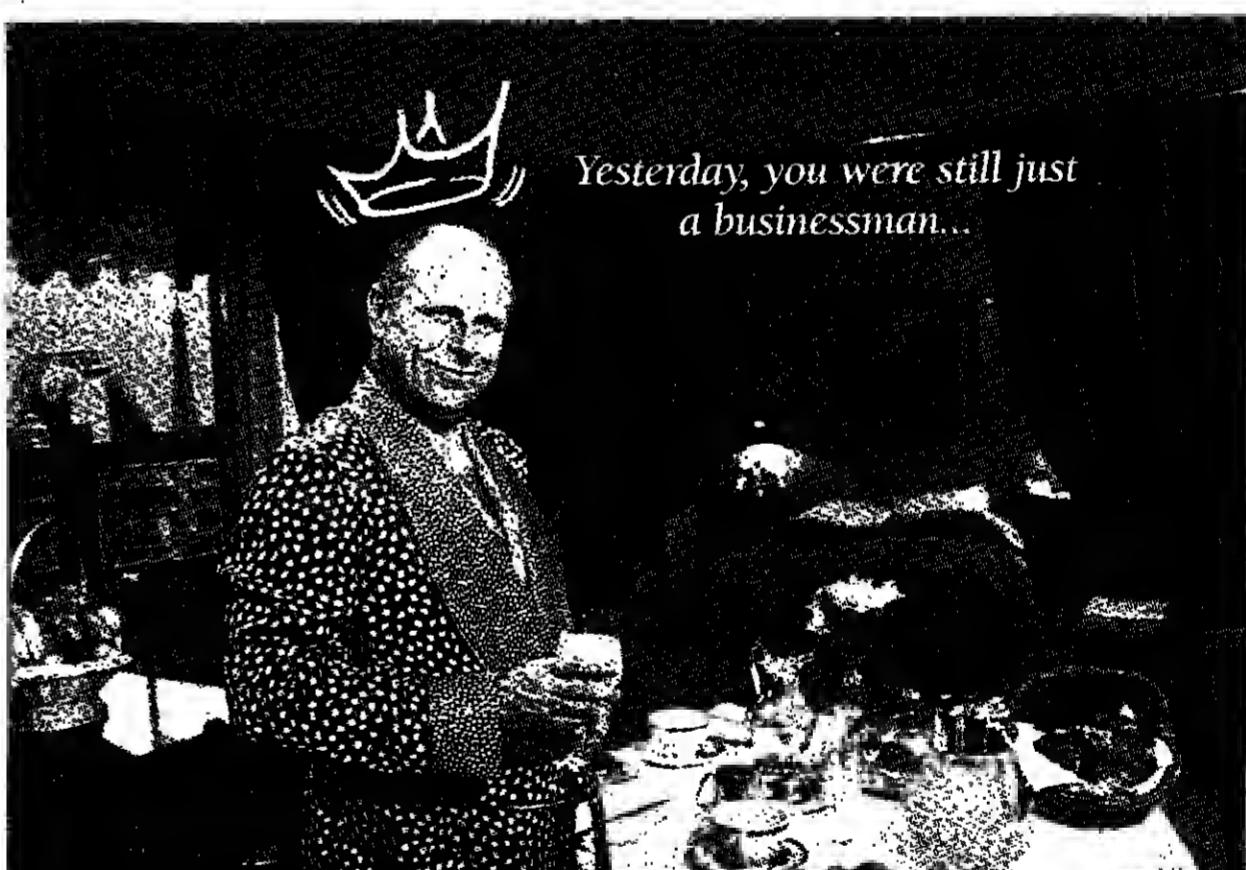
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AJC is joining in efforts to provide emergency relief to the Kosovar refugees. Please send tax-deductible contributions, in the name of the AJC KOSOVO RELIEF FUND, to the above address. All proceeds will be distributed to appropriate aid agencies.



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TOMORROW

DINING



KELLY BREWSTER

A Taste of Provence From a Rising Star

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Maturity and confidence are great traits to witness anytime, anywhere. Even before when you happen to be on the receiving end, and the talented person happens to be a chef. Flora Mikula — certainly one of the rising stars of modern French cuisine — shines with clear brilliance, with a newly decorated Left Bank restaurant and more verve and stamina than ever.

Unquestionably, she is among the most talented female chefs in Paris, and in all of France. When Mikula speaks, her broad, expressive face lights up like an unfurling flower, and you can see, feel, taste that energy and enthusiasm with every dish, every bite of her authentic, Provençal-inspired cuisine.

Wisely, she has invested time in kitchens in her native Provence, in London and New York before making her way into the kitchen of Alain Passard's Arpège. On her own for the past three years, she is now showing at Les Olivades that she, too, has what it takes.

Right now, everything from meaty clams to her signature confit of quail, to sweet farm-raised pork to original *pots de creme* grace her original, tantalizing menu. If you haven't already tried Mikula's *vol au vent*, plump quail simmered to moist tenderness in bath of extra-virgin olive oil (rather than the traditional goose or duck fat of France's southwest), by all means go for it.

On a recent night, she paired the quail with tiny cubes of green apples for a hint of acid, a showering of freshly toasted pine nuts for crunch and an almost smoky essence, all accented by an ever so faint touch of black truffle oil.

It would be nearly impossible to improve upon her almond-infused *anandes gratinées*, meaty clams

(known as almonds of the sea) dotted with finely ground almonds and grilled to a warm tenderness. A hint of fresh coriander expanded the impact of the shellfish-almond duo, while a mix of mushrooms, onions and spinach (a modern approach to *la graine*) softened the flavors and added a garden-fresh edge.

Spare-rib lovers should adore her approach to an American favorite, with her *travers de veau honneur rôti au miel et aux épices*, unfatty ribs so meaty, chewy and tender, bathed in a sweet glistening sauce of honey and spices, so shiny you want to don ice skates and go for a spin.

HORN OF PLENTY Desserts are full of hope and promise, with an original and welcome *corne d'abondance*, a horn-of-plenty pastry cone filled strawberries and rhubarb and teamed up with a fine cinnamon ice cream.

Equally delicious was the *pots de creme* duo, one with a bright, licorice-rich anise flavor and the other infused with the flavors of rosemary and thyme. Fresh-from-the-oven madeleines and Bordeaux-inspired vanilla muffins, or *camembert*, won hearts and warmed spirits.

Other specialties to look forward to here include goat's cheese with Mikula's native Nîmes — *piconon* — aged in olive oil and perfumed with wild herbs; tender roasted baby lamb; breast of guinea hen with olives and polenta, and a well-priced regional wine list.

Les Olivades, 41 Avenue de Segur, Paris 7; telephone 01-47-83-70-09; fax: 01-42-73-04-75. Credit cards: American Express, Mastercard, Visa. Closed Saturday lunch, all day Sunday, Monday lunch and two weeks in August. Menus at 179 and 250 francs (1330 and \$88); à la carte, 250 francs; lunch menu at 130 francs.

Patricia Wells can be reached on the Web at www.patriciawells.com

By David Galloway

LEIPZIG — With a roster of 1,800 publishers from 30 countries, the recent installment of the Leipzig Book Fair incidentally underscored the dilemma confronting this gracious and once great metropolis. Here a rich historical tradition jostles not only with the legacy of war and dictatorship but with the increasingly shaky promise of "boomtown." With souring unemployment and 30 percent of its office spaces unoccupied, the euphoria that earned the city that nickname less than a decade ago, has long since ebbed.

Yet if the city's past glories can never be revived, its intellectual, artistic and mercantile traditions can perhaps help to define a new role in a new Europe. As a signal of that promise, the historic Book Fair moved last year into the spectacular new fairgrounds. One of the largest building projects in the former East Germany, budgeted at 1.335 billion Deutsche marks (\$740 million), the complex was completed in only three years. Enthusiasts have compared it not unreasonably, to London's legendary Crystal Palace and I.M. Pei's Louvre Pyramid.

Clearly, neither its beauty nor its state-of-the-art facilities will enable Leipzig to overtake the trade fairs now entrenched in Hanover or Cologne — let alone the prestigious Frankfurt Book Fair, whose eminence Leipzig surpassed in the 18th century. Yet there may well be a lucrative niche for more selective, specialized and personalized events.

Anyone who has plodded the muggy mazes of the Frankfurt Fair would have welcomed the airiness, gentility and sheer beauty of the far smaller but impeccably professional Leipzig presentation.

ARTISTS' BOOKS

Sympathetic of the fair's cultivated ambience was a special presentation of artist-made books — an island of reflection and repose within the commercial show. Parallel events were staged by Leipzig's College of Graphics and Book Design and by its superb Museum of Books and Writings. Even during the Communist era, the tradition of artists' books flourished here and in other East European centers. Many were produced on antiquated handpresses, in the eyes of state watchdogs, had little propaganda potential.

The inaugural "Book + Art" thus understandably focused on works produced by artists from Poland and the former East Germany.

Peter Guth, who directs art and cultural projects for the Fair, says the focus of "Book + Art" will expand in the year 2000 "to reflect the search for a new European identity." This nod to the muses is far from a belated attempt to lend cultural legitimacy to a commercial enterprise. Even during the fair's construction phase, 24 international artists — including Jenny Holzer, Sol LeWitt and Daniel Buren — were invited to conceive permanent installations. The handsome results are only a further, more recent example of the easy camaraderie of art and commerce, which have done so much throughout the centuries to lend Leipzig its singular flair.

The city's preeminent role as a trading center began more than 800 years ago, when merchants from throughout Europe arrived here to display their wares at Easter. Among them were booksellers, and they helped lay the foundation for Leipzig's development into Europe's leading center for book production as early as the 15th century. It is no coincidence that one of Germany's oldest universities was established here in 1409, the world's first newspaper in 1493, the first daily in 1660.

Along with its fair and publishing industry, Leipzig built its wealth on tobacco, coffee and furs, later on precision manufacturing. Its parks and villas knew few European parallels. In Goethe's "Faust" a tippling student hymns the Saxon metropole as a "little Paris." Local boosters are wont to overlook the irony of the boozy scene in Auerbach's Keller (still a favorite tourist goal), but Goethe was indeed a fan of the city where he spent his student days. Schiller, Leibniz and Wagner also numbered among the university's alumnus.

The 20th century dealt Leipzig a series of resounding blows from which it is still struggling to recover: inflation and depression, the terrors of the Third Reich. Allied bombings and the geopolitical isolation of the Communist era left it a decaying has-been, though it was promoted as Saxony's capital by the German Democratic Republic. The city's progressive spirit, however, was unbroken, as the world learned through the Monday-night "Prayers for Peace" at the Church of St. Nikolai and the subsequent candlelight marches that attracted as many as 300,000 participants. It was those persistent pacifist vigils that led to the fall of the East German regime and loosed a domino effect throughout the Soviet bloc.

THE BUILDING BOOM Speculators, adventurers and idealists were soon flooding into Leipzig, where a journalist counted 1,003 building cranes on the horizon. The decrepit train station, once Europe's largest, was converted into a glittering shopping concourse with 130 boutiques and eateries. The downtown fair buildings, where merchants once traded, were converted into shops and offices, restaurants and cafés. Among them are the magnificent Specks Hof and the Milan-inspired Madler Passage, whose medieval cellars house Auerbach's Keller. And the Church of St. Thomas, where Bach once directed the celebrated boys' choir and composed most of his sacred music, is undergoing extensive renovations. Admission-free weekend concerts, however, continue.

If Leipzig still has more than its share of pitted and scaling facades, the inner city has begun to shine. And when the Leipziger speaks of going "downtown," he refers to an area of no more than one square kilometer enclosed by the city wall. It is a dense urban melange best experienced on foot. Here one finds the temporary quarters of the Museum of Fine Arts and, just outside the "wall," the decayed but treasure-filled Grassi Museum — an Art Deco complex housing separate museums for Ethnology, Musical Instruments and Arts and Crafts. Nearby are the Opera and the Gewandhaus, home to Germany's oldest civic orchestra.

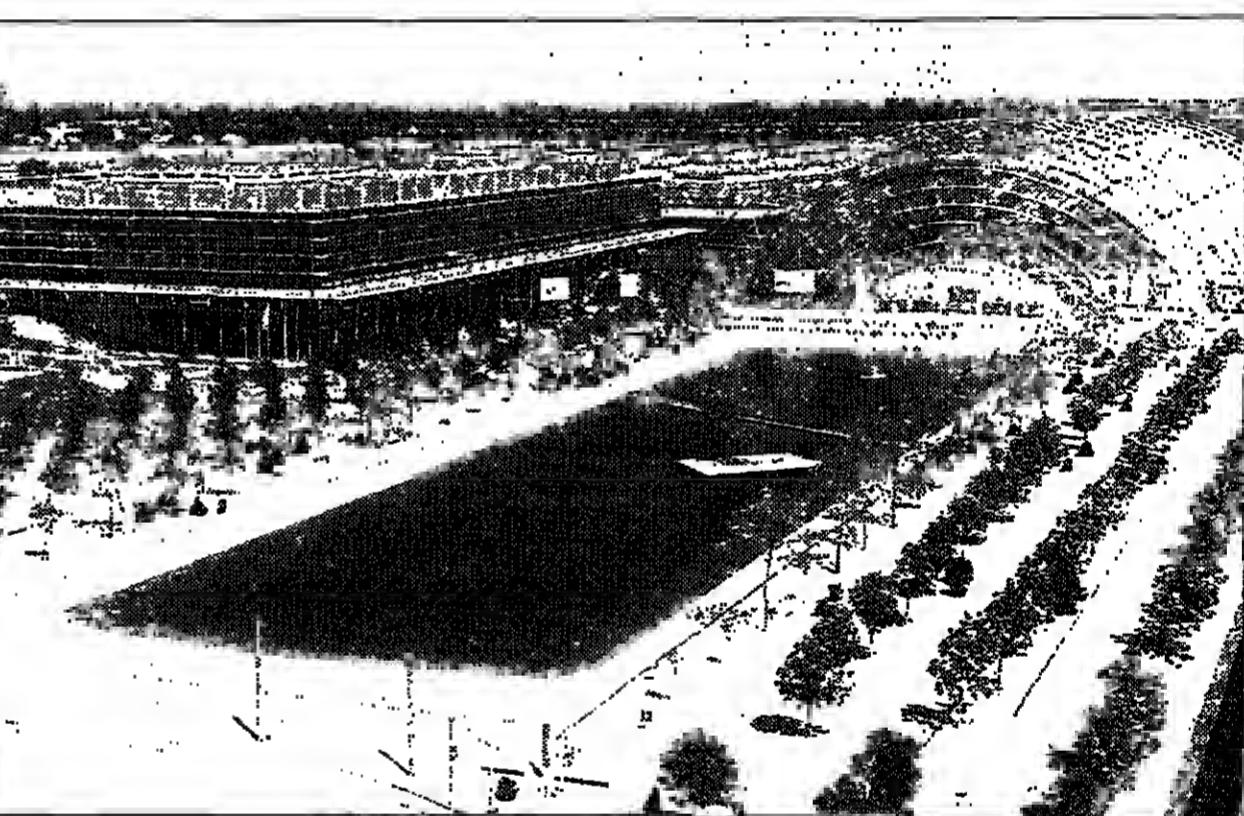
Exploring these and a score of other attractions (including Germany's first



The statue of Goethe at the Old Bourse in central Leipzig.

Conservatory of Music), one can easily imagine why a bibulous student might have boasted of a "little Paris" here. Leipzig, of course, was different then, but so after all was Paris. Nonetheless, one experiences here an unaffected graciousness and a sprightly urbanity that invite even the casual pedestrian to slip into the role of *flâneur*.

David Galloway is an art critic and free-lance curator in Wuppertal, Germany.



Leipzig's new fairgrounds, one of the largest building projects in the former East Germany.

MOVIE GUIDE

A WALK ON THE MOON

Directed by Tony Goldwyn, U.S.

"A Walk on the Moon" is as seductive as the handsome, itinerant hippie who turns its heroine's life upside down. In this nostalgic, beautifully acted tale of romance and responsibility, that heroine is a housewife who could not be at a more dangerous time and place for maintaining the status quo. As she has every summer, Pearl Kantrivitz (Diane Lane) totes her ironing board, dish drainer, children and mother-in-law to a Jewish holiday camp in the Catskills to vacation all summer while her husband, Marty (Liev Schreiber), stays in New York City repairing television sets. It's a peaceful but dull existence, and that's the way it is supposed to stay. Knowingly directed by the actor Tony Goldwyn, "A Walk on the Moon" is about something different in the air. The year is 1969, the event of the title is about to happen, and the camp is near the sun where Woodstock will soon explode. That might seem like a much too convenient coincidence for the screenwriter. Pamela Gray, had not been there to see the local kosher butcher shop tenante the Funky Chicken in honor of hippies in the neighborhood and seismic currents too powerful to ignore. In any case, the film lets this situation yield a steamy, enveloping romance, a family crisis and the fallout that crisis has to bring. Lane movingly captures the dilemma of a woman married at 17 and yearning for freedom just as her own daughter (Anna Paquin) utterly persuasive as a tur-

bulent American adolescent) feels very much the same. And in a film that, as Goldwyn said when it was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, means to mirror changes that shook the nation during that era, "A Walk on the Moon" lets Pearl follow through on her yearnings. On the night of the moonwalk, Pearl embarks on her own dangerous adventure into *terre incognita*, which the film renders with a tenderness virtually unknown on screen these days. The mood is set by sweet, liberating music, mostly album tracks or cover versions rather than familiar hits, from the artists (Joni Mitchell, the Jefferson Airplane, Jesse Colin Young, the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan) whose voices defined the times.

THE MATRIX
Directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski, U.S.
If you believe the Warner Bros. mystique about "The Matrix" filmmakers Larry and Andy Wachowski, little is known about this pair of writing and directing brothers other than they are in their early thirties and they made the 1996 lesbian-noir movie "Bound." I'm only guessing from what I see on the screen, but I'll tell you this much about them: They spent too much time going to the movies as kids, they know a tip-roaring yarn when they see one, and they are not afraid to steal — excuse me, appropriate — the ideas of their betters if it suits their purpose. But what a grand and glorious purpose it is, evoking "Alice in Wonderland," "Men in Black," "Blade Runner," the Holy Bible, Greek mythology, TV's old "Kung Fu" series, James Bond, "The Terminator," "High Noon," "Alien" and "Star Wars." Let me see, am I leaving anything out? Oh, yes, there is also an element of "Sleeping Beauty" thrown in, with a kick-boxing princess (K.D. Lang look-alike Carrie-Anne Moss) instead of the prince and a sleeping beauty who looks like . . . Keanu Reeves. "The Matrix" is just one big, fat, honking comic book of a sci-fi-martial-arts adventure. It goes over the top, comes back around the bottom and back over the top again.

Michael O'Sullivan, WPTV

EL PIANISTA

Directed by Mario Gaus, Spain.

Spain has made so many films about its Civil War that it has become no small feat to tackle the subject with originality. Yet "The Pianist" scores well on freshness because it is based on the novel of the same name by Manuel Vazquez Montalban. The story, in the author's words, is "a reflection on moral victories and defeats." Two young Barcelona pianists compete on the keyboards and for the love of the same talented Spanish woman in Paris in 1936, when the Spanish war begins. One returns home to fight Franco, along with the ideologically committed woman; the other, who noisily espouses lofty ideals, stays in France to pursue his career. The latter, 50 years later and highly successful, finds his former friend working as the humble staff pianist in a Barcelona transvestite bar. Mario Gaus, directing his first film after a long career on the Spanish stage, imposes a theatrical style on the film, whose glaring weakness is the plodding middle section, set in postwar Barcelona of 1946. It takes too long to establish the crucial reunion between the anti-Franco pianist and the woman, who were separated during the war. The initial period in prewar Paris is the film's best section, when the tantalizing woman (Paulina Galvez) must choose between the brilliant, cynical pianist Doria — whose vanguard style and mustache evoke images of Dali — or the introspective player Rossell, who remains true to his ideals, at the cost of fame. The Spanish actors Jordi Molla and Pere Ponce convincingly portray the young pianists, and the French actors Laurent Terzieff and Serge Reggiani play the elderly pianists who meet again in Barcelona. Their final terse encounter is well acted, but does not match the intensity of the early Parisian scenes.

(Al Goodman, IHT)



Diane Lane and Liev Schreiber in a scene from "A Walk on the Moon," directed by Tony Goldwyn.

anyhow, in a film that keeps her hurtling forward almost all the time. The setup sounds like something out of a game's rule book: Lola's boyfriend, Manni (Moritz Bleibtreu), will be killed if she can't come up with a large sum of money and meet him across town in 20 minutes' time. As Lola takes off, trucking along with a muscular R. Crumb look and distinctive flaming-cranberry hair that sets her off from any crowd, the fun is in the details. There are marking points along her route that will be important later. A visit to her father's office, an encounter between an ambulance and a sheet of plate glass, assorted encounters on the street: All of these will be refracted later in various ways. The trip to Manni ends in death, but that hardly carries any weight here. Soon everything is erased and we are back with the flying red telephone receiver that sparked Lola's journey. This time each encounter is somehow different just ways. Tykwer's visual virtuosity reveals in the possibilities here, as when he splits the screen between Lola and Manni, then lets bottom of the image. The story eventually replays yet another permutation, in a show of creative fireworks that is almost the most remarkable aspect of the film. The real miracle, though, is that Lola (like the filmmaker) seems to run through it all without losing her verve or breaking a sweat. (Janet Maslin, NYT)



Keanu Reeves, left, and Hugo Weaving in the sci-fi action thriller "The Matrix."

LEISURE

A Pristine Nature Reserve on an Isle of Sorrow off Taiwan

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

GREEN ISLAND, Taiwan — The gut-wrenching boat ride, Spartan accommodation when you finally get there and large numbers of law enforcement officials wandering around suggest that little has changed on this notorious prison island in the Pacific.

A remote windswept speck off the east coast of Taiwan, Green Island built a solid reputation under the rule of Chiang Kai-shek. Political dissidents were shipped here, often condemned to years of solitary confinement accompanied by brainwashing, copious physical abuse and starvation rations.

In the last few decades, however, democracy has blossomed in Taiwan, the political prison has been closed down and now an ever-increasing number of

Taiwanese are voluntarily booking themselves in for a stay on Green Island.

In addition to prisoners heading to the remaining detention centers — one for reformed drug addicts, another for high-level mobsters — thousands of tourists are flocking to the island for a look at one of Taiwan's most pristine, and last, natural preserves. The prison's odious reputation helped save the island from the scourge of development that has hammered concrete pilings into just about every flat surface on Taiwan's crowded main island.

Green Island's natural attractions are abundant. In the hour or so it takes to circumnavigate the island on a rented scooter, visitors pass past hundred-meter-high cliffs overlooking churning surf, low-lying stretches of shore where steaming-hot seawater bubbles out of volcanic rocks, empty strips of golden

beach and turquoise-blue water off every shore. Convenience stores on the island rent snorkeling and scuba equipment, allowing swimmers to set off from almost any direction in coral-filled waters populated by schools of neon-colored tropical fish. (For those unable to dive or unwilling to get wet, several submarine-shaped glass-bottom boats make 40-minute excursions whenever enough passengers turn up on the quay.)

The island's most famous landmark, however, the former political prison, is closed to the public and mired in controversy. Emptied without ceremony less than a decade ago, the prison was abandoned until workers began renovating the facility in 1997 for use as a detention center for petty criminals. Protests by former political prisoners, who were scandalized by what they called the whitewashing of Taiwan's

history, halted the work and have increased pressure to make the prison a memorial site.

"They began modernizing it with imported Italian tiles to make the place more comfortable," said Shih Ming-te, a senator who spent more than a decade imprisoned on Green Island for advocating democracy and human rights. "I remember having just a single hole in the floor to use for washing and the toilet."

SET behind barbed wire-topped concrete walls and daunting watchtowers, the prison itself can be seen only by climbing on the roof of a nearby abandoned military barracks. Decorated with fading patriotic screeds, the prison's crumbling gray hulk sits among verdant hillsides within a stone's throw of the ocean.

"I could smell the sea but I could not

see it. I could hear the waves but I could not touch them," said Shih, who spent 13 years of his detention here in solitary confinement. "Our history is full of sorrows, but like South Africa where they kept Nelson Mandela's prison and Poland where they preserve concentration camps in memory of genocide, we cannot allow our past to be forgotten."

Chen Chia-wen, government secretary of Green Island township, agrees, but does not know where the money to preserve the prison will come from. "We have a responsibility to remind people of human rights," Chen said, adding that the island aims to change its image. "It will be difficult, but we want to throw off the idea of us as a prison island and draw tourists for the natural things they can see."

For now there seem to be few threats

in Green Island's ecology. The prison remains the biggest employer, there is no

industry and the island's limited accommodation — three modest hotels and about 20 guest houses — restrict most tourists to day trips.

The island's new-found popularity does, however, pose dangers to its isolated tranquillity. Plans have been drawn up for an 800-room hotel and crooners can be heard until late at night at the island's sole karaoke bar.

Green Island is off the east coast of Taiwan's Taidong county, a one-hour flight southeast of Taipei. The island can be reached on a 10-minute flight from Taidong airport or a 90-minute boat ride from the nearby port. Keep in mind that the boat immediately enters the Pacific Ocean, which, even on calm days, can send waves high enough to test the strongest of sea legs. In recent weeks, flights and boats — as well as hotels once — have been booked solid, so travel may require some planning ahead.

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

EDINBURGH Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, tel: (131) 332-2268, open daily. To May 9: "Henri Cartier-Bresson: Portraits, Tête-à-Tête." More than 100 photographs have been selected from 60 years of work. They include portraits of French, British, and American artists and intellectuals. www.edinburgh-galleries.co.uk/ngs.htm

LONDON Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. "Monet in the 20th Century" will remain open nonstop from 9 A.M. on Saturday, April 17, to Sunday, April 18, at 6 P.M., when the exhibition closes. www.royalacademy.org.uk

FRANCE

ARLES Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, tel: 04-42-49-04-04, open daily. To June 27: "Le Regard de Vincent Van Gogh sur les Estampes Japonaises du XIXème Siècle." The influence of Japanese art in Van Gogh's works is illustrated by a side-by-side display of prints by Hokusai, Hiroshige and other Japanese masters and reproductions of the artist's works that show his use of similar motifs.

PARIS Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais, tel: 01-44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays and May 1. Continuing to July 12: "Art Egyptien au Temps des Pyramides." Brings together art from the Old Kingdom (c. 2700-200 B.C.), when the pyramids were built, the temples decorated with colored reliefs and the tombs filled with furniture, jewelry and crafted objects. Petit Palais, tel: 01-42-65-12-73, closed Mondays. To July 18: "Maroc, Les Trésors du Royaume." Documents the convergence of peoples and cultures and their influence on Moroccan civilization from prehistoric times to 20th-century artists. A large section of the exhibition features items from the ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis.

GERMANY

DUESSELDORF Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, tel: (211) 8381-0, closed Mondays. To June 27: "Hidden Treasures From the Tarnum Museum." On loan from the Belgian museum, more than 100 statues, masks and other items from the former colony of Congo. The collection was set up by King Leopold II at the end of the 19th century to familiarize the Belgian people with the "Black Continent." www.kunstsammlung.de

HONG KONG

STUTTGART Staatsgalerie, tel: (711) 212-4050, closed Mondays and May 1. To June 27: "Giovanni Battista Piranesi: Die Poetische Weltheit." Etchings by the Italian engraver and architect (1720-1778). If Piranesi's vision did not aim at conceivable architecture, his views of ancient Rome and imaginary temples paved the way for Italian Romantic landscape painters.



Cartier-Bresson portrait of the French writer Colette, bottom, is part of an exhibition in Edinburgh.

current New Art From MoMA, New York." Contemporary works from the New York collection reflect developments in sculpture, painting, drawing, installations, photography and video. Participating artists are Nobuyoshi Araki, John Baldessari, Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Bruce Nauman, among others. www.moma.org

NETHERLANDS

ROTTERDAM Kunsthall, tel: (10) 44-00-300, closed Mondays. To June 20: "Wege: New York, 1835-1960." Approximately 75 photographs by the American artist (1899-1960) that appeared in New York dailies in the 1930s and 40s. Creating a car fitted with a police radio, Weege reported on the city's steady life and was able to capture immediate scenes of work, sleep and death.

SWEDEN

TOKYO Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, tel: (3) 3445-0851, closed Wednesdays. To May 30: "Cross-

prints by the Dutch sculptor whose work was commissioned by Emperor Rudolf II in Prague, as well as other European royalties. www.nationalmuseum.se

SWITZERLAND

MONTREUX Fondation Pierre Gianadda, tel: (27) 722-3878, open daily. Continues to June 6: "Turner & Les Alpes." Works on paper created by the British painter (1775-1851) while he traveled through the French and Swiss Alps in 1802. www.gianadda.ch

UNITED STATES

BALTIMORE Walters Art Gallery, tel: (410) 547-9000, open daily. Continues to May 9: "Land of the Winged Horsemen: Art in Poland, 1572-1764." On loan from Polish museums, portraits, armor, costumes, objects in silver and gold from a land that was influenced by its position at the crossroads of eastern and western cultures. www.walters.org

NEW YORK

Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 788-9400, closed Wednesdays. To June 1: "The Museum as Muse: Artist Reflect." More than 180 paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, video and installations by 60 artists who reflect on the concept of museum, explore its relationship to the art it contains and incorporate some of its aspects in their work. The exhibition presents "personal museums" created by Brodhaers, Oldenburg and Botstein.

www.moma.org

WISCONSIN

Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, tel: (202) 237-2700, open daily. To Sept. 6: "Dav: The Great Goddess." More than 100 representations of the Hindu goddess. The sculptures in bronze, stone, terra-cotta and paintings on paper and textiles from India, Nepal, China and Pakistan range in style over 2,000 years. www.sackler.org

CLOSING SOON

AMERICAS April 18: "French Drawings From the Horvitz Collection." Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.

ASIA April 18: "A 4000-Year Art Expedition: From Ancient Egypt to Andy Warhol." Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, Tokyo.

EUROPE April 18: "Georges Pompidou at la Madeline." Jeu de Paume, Paris. April 21: "The Asian City of the 90s." Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

BOOKS

those days was an iron scraper; its blunt teeth combed mud and burns from horsehair. To flog someone — an unusual torture — the wielder had to bear down. Perhaps the skin and muscles of an old scholar are comparatively loose."

What is Dillard up to here in this book, which seems to be a throwback to her early prose poem "Holy the Firm" (1977), in which she searches for goodness in a world where her neighbor's daughter has just had her face burned away in an airplane accident?

As quickly becomes evi-

dent, Dillard, like the reader, also longs for meaning. Interspersed with her reports of catastrophes are anecdotes about the likes of the French paleontologist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin; the founder of Hasidism, Israel ben Eliezer, whom his followers called the Baal Shem Tov or the Master of the Good Name, and sundry other mystics, visionaries and religious philosophers.

By degree a pattern establishes itself in the text: Descriptions of great evil are followed by comments about sand, which are juxtaposed with mind-numbing statistics, which are contrasted with comments attempting to explain God's ways.

From this pattern several fundamental questions arise: First, how can God know and love each member of the Earth's population?

Second, how can any of us know and love anyone besides our family and friends, which, as Dillard writes, compose "a group smaller than almost all sampling errors, smaller than almost all rounding errors, an invisible group at whose loss the world will not blink?"

Third, how can evil exist in a world created by God? And finally, who are we anyway and what on earth are we doing here?

Why doesn't Dillard simply ask these questions and set about to answer them directly? Because the power of her stories and imagery heightens our desire for answers.

Dillard scales down her cosmic questions to matters of individual human conduct. Her answers are not for eternity but only "For the Time Being," by which she means the here and now.

New York Times Service

BRIDGE

THE most disappointed player of 1999, or at any rate a candidate for the title, is the French world champion Pierre Chemla.

On the diagrammed deal in the final of the Open Swiss Team Championship at the conclusion of the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals in Vancouver, British Columbia, he sat West defending a contract of two hearts. Since the declarer on his right held six trumps headed by the ace-queen, he could reasonably hope to score at least four trump tricks and defeat the contract. But ...

The declarer was Michael Polowin who was on his way to victory in the event with Sam Lev, Brian Glubok, John

Moham and Barnett Shenkin. Bidding led to two hearts, and South was totally unaware of the catastrophe that awaited him.

Choosing to leave the trumps untouched, he won the diamond lead with dummy's ace. South crossed to the spade nine and led the diamond nine. East was Chris-

ian Mari, who like his partner is a member of the French team that won world team titles in 1996 and 1997. He won with the king and led the club nine, which was covered with the 10, king and ace.

South ruffed a spade, West dropping the king, and led the club queen. West ruffed this and led the diamond jack, which the declarer ruffed. He surrendered a club to the jack, and East was on lead in the position shown at left.

The spade queen was led, ruffed by South with the seven and overruffed by West with the 10. A low heart return would have allowed South to win and lead his club, endplaying West for the second time. Chemla tried the effect of leading the king, but this proved to be no better. Polowin won with the ace, led his club five, and could not be

prevented from making eight tricks and his contract. Chemla, who always has plenty to say in staccato French, needed arms as well as words to express his feelings.

NORTH

♦ J8752

▼ 9

♦ A1083

♦ A74

♦ K104

▼ Q10342

▼ QJS

2 K782

♦ K9863

♦ A952

♦ A94

♦ Q1052

SOUTH

♦ A98763

9 8

♦ Q1052

North and South were vulnerable.

The bidding:

North: East: South: West:

Pass: Pass: Pass: Pass

Pass: Pass: Pass: Pass

West led the diamond queen.

EAST

♦ Q53

▼ 7

♦ 10

▼ 9

♦ 8

▼ 9

♦ 10

▼ 9

♦ 8

▼ 9

♦ 10

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♦ 10

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♦ 10

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

BUSINESS/FINANCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1999

PAGE 13

Boeing Posts Ninefold Profit Jump

Aircraft Maker Recovers From Profit-Sapping Production Snags

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEATTLE — Boeing Co. said Thursday that its earnings surged more than ninefold in the first quarter, beating analysts' expectations, as the world's largest aircraft maker rebounded from severe production bottlenecks in the year-earlier period.

Net income at Boeing rose to \$469 million, or 50 cents a share, from \$50 million, or 5 cents, in the first quarter of 1998. Analysts surveyed by First Call Corp. expected the company to earn 42 cents a share. Sales rose 12 percent, to \$14.4 billion.

Phil Condit, Boeing chairman and chief executive officer, said all three operating units — commercial airplanes, military aircraft and missiles, and space and communications — contributed to a solid first quarter.

"The production health measurements in all of our commercial airplane programs improved significantly as the recovery plan continued to yield the intended results," Mr. Condit said.

"We were especially pleased with the smooth production rate increase on our next-generation 737 lines to a record 24 airplanes a month."

Boeing's jetliner plants struggled to keep up with demand from airlines in the past two years, frustrating investors,

driving the stock down and forcing a management shake-up.

The quarterly profit, though small when compared with Boeing's sales, signals that the worst of the production problems may be over.

The commercial airplane segment had operating earnings of \$382 million for the quarter, up from just \$23 million a year earlier, when Boeing was beset with production line snarls, parts shortages

General Motors and Ford both report earnings gains. Page 14.

and delays in bringing on the new 737s.

Revenue from commercial jets was \$9.8 billion, up \$1.7 billion from first-quarter 1998. The commercial-jet group's operating margin rose to 3.9 percent in the quarter after barely breaking even a year earlier.

For all of 1998, commercial airplanes — traditionally Boeing's moneymaker — produced an operating loss of \$266 million, dragging down the company's overall performance and sparking rumors that Mr. Condit's job was in jeopardy.

Boeing delivered 448 commercial jets in the first quarter, 40 more than in the year-ago period. The A318 would add a fourth member to Airbus's three-jet A320 family.

U.K. Euro Foes Campaign in City of London

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Opponents of Britain's participation in the euro took the debate to the heart of London's financial district Thursday, turning the City into a crucial battleground as the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair seems to build public support for the single currency.

Business for Sterling, a group of business leaders opposed to joining the euro, gathered a number of bankers here to argue that the euro was irrelevant at best, and a menace at worst, to the fortunes of London's banks and brokerages.

"Whatever currency happens to be in use in Britain is probably the most insignificant factor of the many factors that determine London's competitive position in the world," said Stanislas

Yassukovich, chairman of the fledgling pan-European stock exchange Easdaq and a former chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe. "The City is a global financial center, not just a European one. Business is done in every currency."

The attempt to claim the hearts and minds of the financial community was the first major move by euro opponents since Mr. Blair indicated his strong leaning in favor of the single currency two months ago by presenting a national changeover plan in Parliament. It gave a taste of what is expected to be heated campaign, particularly as the next general election approaches in 2001 or 2002.

Mr. Blair has indicated he would like to hold a referendum on the euro shortly after the election.

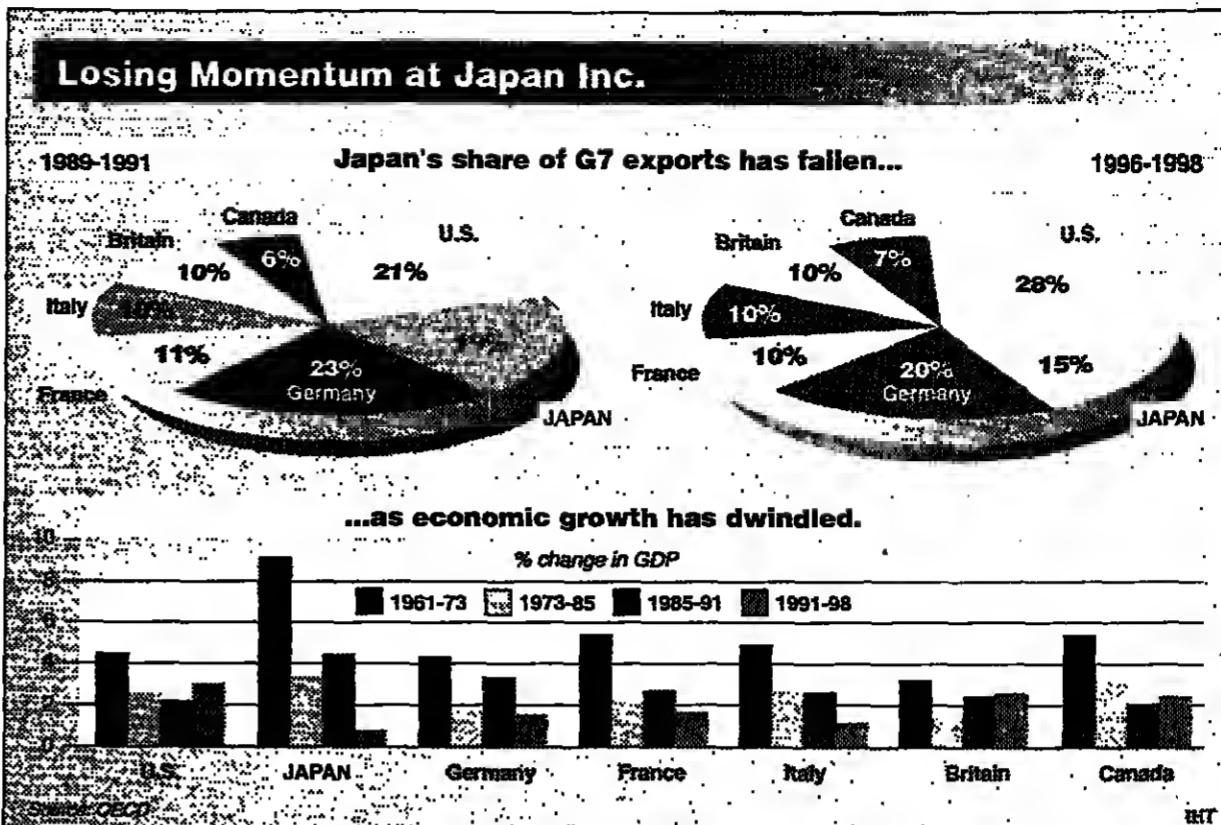
As the largest financial center in Europe, the biggest market for foreign-

exchange trading in the world and home to more banks than New York or Tokyo, the City of London was always bound to play a crucial role in Britain's campaign over the euro.

Continental countries want Britain to join the euro largely because of the importance of London's capital market. And many bankers and government officials here fear that London's competitive position, both globally and against European rivals such as Frankfurt and Paris, would be undermined if the country stayed out of the euro too long.

Judith Mayhew, the policy director of the Corporation of London, the governing body for the financial district, participated in the introduction of the leading pro-euro lobby group last month

See CITY, Page 14



Japan Trade Gap Falls as Exports Drop

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — The government said Thursday that Japan's trade surplus had fallen 32 percent in February from a year earlier as a stronger yen hurt exports.

The current-account surplus, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, slipped to 1.112 trillion yen (\$37.3 billion) in February, the Finance Ministry said.

Imports fell 5.4 percent, to 2,363 trillion yen, while exports dropped 13 percent to 3,461 trillion yen. The figures are not seasonally adjusted.

On a month-to-month basis, the trade surplus was down 19 percent from January as a government spending spree aimed at cranking up the economy stayed out of the euro too long.

Judith Mayhew, the policy director of the Corporation of London, the governing body for the financial district, participated in the introduction of the leading pro-euro lobby group last month

the second since April 1998.

The surplus was slightly lower than the average estimate of 1.19 trillion yen made by economists based in Tokyo and surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires.

Japan's trade surplus has long been a source of friction with the United States and other trading partners, who have been urging Japan to boost its economy to stimulate imports.

Washington also has threatened punitive measures unless Tokyo opens its market to more foreign competition. Japan's current-account surplus for all of 1998 shrank 38.7 percent to a record 15.9 trillion yen.

The current-account balance, which measures exchanges in merchandise, services, tourism and investment, is calculated by determining the difference between Japan's income from foreign sources and its payments on foreign obligations. It excludes net capital investment.

The decline in imports in February indicates that domestic demand remains weak as the economy struggles to dig out of a recession. Furthermore, economists said the lower import figure bad itself

been skewed upward by a quadrupling in aircraft imports, to 179.8 billion yen on a customs-cleared basis, after six large planes were bought following the expansion of Tokyo's Haneda Airport and an increase in international flights.

"A steep increase in the imports of aircraft, I believe, is just a temporary phenomenon," said Koichi Ono, economist at the Daiwa Research Institute.

"It has nothing to do with recovery of the Japanese economy." He said the trade surplus could grow again.

"Given the severity of Japan's recession, the February fall does not mean that the downturn of the current account has started," Mr. Ono said. "Rather, Japan's economy has a long way to go before it recovers."

Taichi Sakaiya, the state minister for economic planning, told a committee on finance in the upper house of Parliament that he could not rule out fears that the government's economic measures would "run out of steam."

"If the current economic conditions continue," he said, "they would pass on to private demand, particularly consumption." (AP, AFP, Bloomberg)

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CURRENCY RATES

April 15 Other Dollar Values

April 15

	\$	£	SF	Yen	CS	Dane	Greek	Swede	Canadian	Peru	Argent.	Peru						
London (d)	1.6124	—	2.4136	192.053	2.4057	11.1712	487.439	13.3604	—	—	0.9999	1.6512	283.79	1.7555	1.7555	1.7555	1.7555	1.7555
New York (d)	1.6097	1.4983	118.93	1.4883	6.8905	302.90	8.2774	—	79.81	17.31	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911
Tokyo	119.15	192.22	80.27	—	2.0143	2.0143	2.0143	2.0143	17.31	17.31	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911
Toronto	1.489	2.3953	0.9935	1.253	—	2.0143	2.0143	2.0143	2.0143	17.31	17.31	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911	1.4911
Zurich	1.4986	2.4105	—	1.2595	1.0035	21.5822	1.0035	1.0035	21.5822	7.249	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946	1.4946
One euro	1.0786	0.6682	1.6035	128.01	1.6114	7.4303	224.50	8.979	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
One SDR	1.3599	0.8405	2.0222	162.30	2.0302	9.3508	407.009	11.2228	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Interest rates excluding commissions. a: To buy one pound. b: To buy one dollar. c: For 100 M.O. not quoted. M.A. not available.

SDR: Special drawing rights of the IMF.

Sources: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); Banque de

France (Paris); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters.

Euro Values

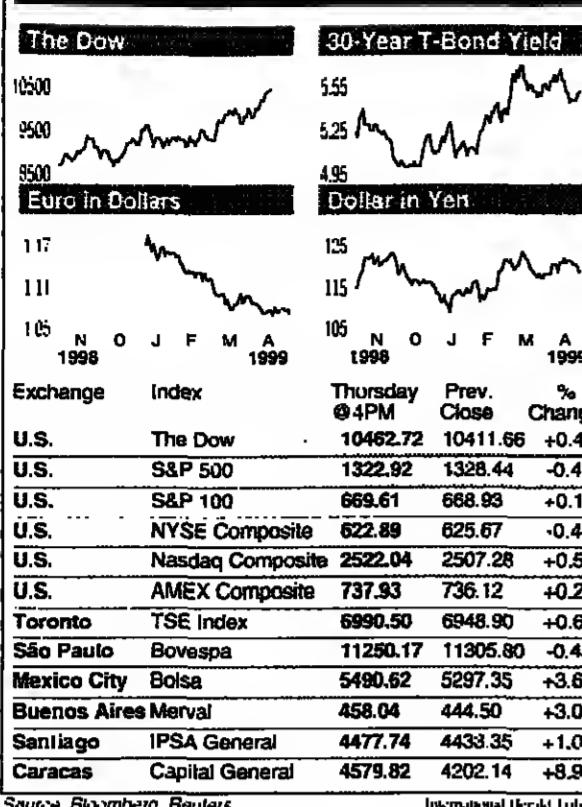
Fixed rates of the EMU member currencies, for one euro:

U.S. dollar	1.2492	Irish punt	—
Belgian franc	4		

THE AMERICAS

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Investor's America

By Lawrence M. Fisher
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — The brutal price competition of the past two years among computer-chip makers is now exacting a heavy toll.

With the market already limping from the soft sales forecast made Tuesday by Intel Corp., a big first-quarter loss reported Wednesday by Advanced Micro Devices Inc. sent investors in technology stocks scrambling for the exits.

"We have seen a permanent — and I emphasize the word 'permanent' — change in the microprocessor business, and I don't think prices will ever recover," said Drew Peck, an analyst with S.G. Cowen Securities Corp.

"PCs and microprocessors have stagnated in their technology," he said, noting that the

basic design underlying Intel's and Advanced Micro's microprocessors was 20 years old. "No longer is the PC business driven by technological advancement. It's driven purely by price."

Advanced Micro had warned on three occasions that the quarter would be weak, and its actual loss was slightly smaller than analysts' estimates.

For the quarter ended March 28, Advanced Micro reported a loss of \$128.4 million, widened from a loss of \$62.7 million in the year-earlier period.

Revenue rose 17 percent, to \$631.6 million from \$540.9 million in the first quarter of 1998, but it was down 20 percent from the \$788.8 million reported in the fourth quarter, which ended Dec. 27.

The first-quarter results included a charge

of \$15 million for restructuring and other special charges.

Those results, widely viewed as devastating, further clarified what Intel's modest revenue shortfall Tuesday only hinted at: that the pricing environment for microprocessors, the silicon brains of personal computers, is the worst it ever has been.

But while Intel, through cost savings, eked out earnings, Advanced Micro struggled to make projected volumes of its microprocessors, particularly the faster chips that command higher prices. Further fueling investor anxiety was the fact that both earnings reports followed a warning from Compaq Computer Corp. last Friday that its first-quarter results would fall far short of expectations.

Paradoxically, this week also has seen strong comebacks by two technology compa-

nies. On Tuesday, Motorola Inc. reported a 20 percent rise in profit, mostly as a result of its cellular-telephone business, and Apple Computer Inc., which had been all but written off by the market in the past few years, on Wednesday reported solid net income well above analysts' expectations.

But the basic arithmetic leaves little hope for improvement. With a \$500 personal computer offering most of the performance and features of a \$1,500 model, nearly all growth has shifted to the low end of the market.

There is no room for a \$500 microprocessor in a \$500 PC, so the bulk of Advanced Micro and Intel's sales has shifted to less costly chips. Intel still can make respectable profit margins with high-end chips, but Advanced Micro does not make a workstation-class microprocessor.

Surge in Confidence Lifts Dollar Against the Euro

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the euro Thursday as a report by the U.S. Federal Reserve Board showed a surge in confidence among manufacturers, a sign that the U.S. economy remained far more robust than those

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

on the other side of the Atlantic.

"The economy and the equity market are looking great, and that's supporting the dollar," said Jeremy Fund, a currency strategist at BankBoston.

In 4 P.M. trading, the euro fell to \$1.0708 from \$1.0806.

The dollar continued to gain strength from signs that Europe's biggest economies remained sluggish and as fighting dragged on in Yugoslavia.

"You'll see people hold their dol-

lars because they're not confident the Europeans will get their house in order," said Rob Deluca, chief trader at Den Danske Bank. The conflict in Yugoslavia also adds to the dollar's strength as a haven in times of international turmoil, he said.

Traders bought dollars after the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia's general economic index of area manufacturers jumped to 26.4 points in April from 10.4 in March. Analysts had expected an index reading of 12.5 for this month.

The dollar also rose to 1.18.93 yen from 1.18.63 yen. The U.S. currency was underpinned by speculation that the Bank of Japan would buy dollars to keep a rising yen from endangering prospects for a Japanese economic recovery.

The dollar rose to 1.4983 Swiss francs from 1.4864 francs, and the pound fell to \$1.6097 from \$1.6136.

Strong Earnings Raise Blue Chips

Compiled by Our Staff From Company Reports

NEW YORK — Blue-chip stocks rose Thursday, buoyed by strong earnings reports from big industrial companies. But the broader market was mixed as investors were unnerved by an early sell-off in Internet stocks.

At the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 51.06 points at a record 10,462.72, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 5.52 at 1,322.92. The Nasdaq composite, which includes most Internet issues, recovered from a steep early loss to gain 14.76 points to 2,522.04.

On the New York Stock Exchange, advancing stocks outnumbered declining ones by a ratio of about 4-to-3.

Leading the Dow higher were so-called cyclical stocks, those that ebb and flow with the economy, after robust earnings reports from General Motors, Ford Motor

and Boeing. Among those cyclical issues, International Paper rose 3 \$1/16 to 55 9/16, and DuPont gained 2 1/2 to 67 1/4, adding to a big jump the day before.

But some brokerage firms, which had been surging, also on

U.S. STOCKS

strong earnings news, were among the biggest losers. Particularly hard hit were the stocks of firms that do much of their business on-line.

Charles Schwab, the biggest on-line broker, fell 14 1/4 to 123 1/2. The company reported earnings that were above expectations, but the stock had been surging in recent days.

Leading the Dow higher were so-called cyclical stocks, those that ebb and flow with the economy, after robust earnings reports from General Motors, Ford Motor

and in the Internet sector hinted at possible tremors ahead.

"During the past three years, the U.S. market has corrected during the summer period," said Scott Fullman, chief options strategist at Swiss American Securities. "The correction is normally led by a downturn in the high-technology group, resulting in an annual 'tech wreck.' Treasury prices were lower, with the 30-year bond down 8/32 at 96, pushing the yield up to 5.52 percent from 5.51 percent."

Mexican Stocks Surge

The main index of Mexican stocks surged to a record, making it the best-performing market in the world this year, on optimism that low interest rates and a strong peso will lift consumption.

At the close, the Bolsa index was up 193.27 points, or 3.65 percent, at 5,490.62.

Very briefly:

• Mattel Inc., the world's largest toymaker, will close plants and cut more than 3,100 workers, a tenth of its work force, to cut costs. Mattel also reported a first-quarter loss of \$17.9 million, in line with analysts' estimates, on a 1.9 percent drop in sales and said it would spend \$50 million to build up an Internet unit that may go public.

• A PairGain Technologies Inc. employee, Gary Dale Hoke of Raleigh, North Carolina, was charged with securities fraud in the posting of a fabricated news report on the Internet that drove up the California-based company's stock.

• Delta Air Lines Inc.'s third-quarter earnings rose 10.8 percent from a year earlier as it benefited from lower fuel prices and higher fares. Net income in the quarter, which ended March 31, climbed to \$216 million.

• Cadbury Schweppes PLC agreed to buy Procter & Gamble Co.'s Hawaiian Punch brand for \$203 million as it focuses on its soft-drink business on the U.S. market.

• The Chicago Board of Trade's president and chief executive since 1982, Thomas Donovan, refused to step down as demanded by the exchange's new chairman, David Brennan, setting the stage for a showdown before the exchange's board at its meeting Monday, persons familiar with the standoff said.

• Unocal Corp. agreed to buy a 46 percent stake in Northrock Resources Ltd., a Canadian natural-gas producer, for as much as \$265 million Canadian dollars (\$177.4 million) in an apparent bet that prices for the fuel will rise as reserves dwindle in the United States.

• Pfizer Inc.'s first-quarter profit rose 18 percent from a year earlier, to \$815 million, as it sold more of its new drugs such as the anti-potence pill Viagra and older ones such as the antibiotic Zithromax.

• Gillette Co. reported first-quarter profit that was little changed. Net income was \$269 million, compared with \$268 million a year earlier; the lack of growth was attributed to weak sales in Brazil.

Bloomberg, AP, Reuters

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Thursday, April 15

Most Actives

Indexes	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
NYSE					
Dow Jones	10,500	9,800	10,400	+400	+3.8%
Trans. Comp.	3,425.91	3,458.50	3,425.57	-16.12	-0.4%
Smallb. & Poors	1,124.47	1,156.27	1,163.09	+15.67	+1.3%
Composite	2,522.04	2,507.28	2,507.59	+0.59	+0.0%
AMEX	737.93	736.12	736.12	+0.25	+0.3%
Totals	2,099	2,079	2,094	+19	+0.9%
Market Sales	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%
Trading Activity	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%

Indexes	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
Nasdaq					
Composite	627.77	618.99	627.89	+7.78	+1.2%
Trans. Comp.	7,169.00	7,168.71	7,168.14	-0.87	-0.0%
Utilities	7,497.29	7,324.37	7,324.24	-78.95	-1.0%
Finance	151.21	147.64	147.88	+0.24	+0.2%
Composite	1,121.32	1,120.94	1,120.92	-0.38	-0.3%
AMEX	595.47	595.23	595.23	-0.24	-0.4%
Totals	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%
Market Sales	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%
Trading Activity	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%

Indexes	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
AMEX					
Dow Jones Bond	1,027.40	1,026.00	1,026.00	-0.17	-0.1%
10-Year T-bonds	1,020.00	1,022.00	1,023.00	+0.23	+0.2%
5-Year T-bonds	1,020.51	1,023.00	1,023.00	+0.49	+0.5%
1-Year T-bonds	1,020.51	1,023.00	1,023.00	+0.49	+0.5%
Market Sales	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%
Trading Activity	1,000	999	1,000	+1	+0.1%

Dividends	Per Amt	Rec	Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR							
Farmers Inv. Adm.	\$574	4.21	5.14	Lindor Techn.	0.41	0.25	5.17
BarnesWYD'S	1,000	1,000	1,000	Reg. Corp.	0.25	0.25	5.21
Perf. Inv. PLC	6,474	4.21	5.28	Converg. Corp.	0.25	0.25	5.21
Highland Corp.	1,000	1,000	1,000	Hi-Tech Fnd.	0.25	0.25	5.21
1,100 Inv. Inv. Inv.	1,100	1,100	1,100	Hilti Fnd.	0.25	0.25	5.21

World Bank Has New Loan for Russia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — James Wolfensohn, the president of the World Bank, said Thursday that the bank had promised \$2.3 billion in new loans to Russia over two years once Moscow reached agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

If granted, the World Bank loans would be the first to Russia since the country defaulted on its Treasury debt last August.

Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov is committed to a market-oriented system," Mr. Wolfensohn told reporters after talks with government officials. "We have agreed on a very substantial program. We expect to be a long-term constructive partner of the Russian people."

The bank came to an agreement on \$650 million and expects to reach agreement on a further \$1.2 billion in loans by the end of the month, Mr. Wolfensohn said. The loans will be disbursed after the International Monetary Fund approves the government's

economic program. Altogether, the World Bank could lend \$2.3 billion to Russia through 2001, he said.

After Mr. Wolfensohn's comments, the benchmark Russian Trading System stock index gained 3.6 percent.

"What we need to do is get guidelines from the Russian government for a clear set of steps which we can agree on," Mr. Wolfensohn said. After that, he said, the bank can "give financial assistance to develop a more sophisticated and better-managed market economy."

The loans will be used to restructure Russia's industrial sector and to finance social reforms, Mr. Wolfensohn said. The World Bank will lend \$250 million for social programs and \$400 million for retraining coal miners.

The loans will be used to restructure Russia's industrial sector and to finance social reforms, Mr. Wolfensohn said. The World Bank will lend \$250 million for social programs and \$400 million for retraining coal miners.

"These are problems of transition," Mr. Wolfensohn said. He said it was

"important we keep this partnership" so as to give the support that Russia needs. The bank will also help arrange a Japanese government credit exceeding \$1 billion.

Mr. Wolfensohn was scheduled to meet with Mr. Primakov on Thursday, but the prime minister was taken to the hospital for an unscheduled medical checkup. Mr. Primakov's deputy, Yuri Maslyukov, replaced him.

The IMF and the World Bank orchestrated a \$2.2 billion bailout package to Russia last year, but disbursements were frozen in August when the government defaulted on some debts and devalued the ruble under the impact of the global crisis in developing countries.

A team from the International Monetary Fund was also in Moscow on Thursday to finalize plans for a new loan. Russia hopes that the resumption of the IMF loans will help attract money from other lenders and possibly persuade them to write off some old debts.

(AP, Bloomberg)

ICI to Sell Units to Huntsman for \$2.8 Billion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Imperial Chemical Industries PLC said Thursday it would sell several businesses to Huntsman Corp. for \$2.8 billion as it moved away from the bulk commodities business to focus on more profitable specialty chemicals.

Once a bellwether for British industry, ICI has been in recent years by weakening bulk-chemicals markets, increased competition from Asian rivals and the massive debt it assumed when it bought specialty-chemicals businesses from Unilever in 1997 for \$8 billion.

The deal with Huntsman includes ICI units producing polyurethanes, titanium

dioxide and petrochemicals.

Huntsman is the largest privately owned chemical concern in North America, and the transaction is expected to make it the world's biggest by expanding its European and Asian activities and introducing it into Africa.

The purchase will involve 7,000 employees in 15 countries.

ICI said the deal would result in initial net proceeds of £1.3 billion (\$2.1 billion), which it plans to use to cut group debt of some £4.2 billion.

ICI shares rose 5 pence to close at 640, extending gains made Wednesday on market speculation about a deal.

Huntsman will acquire the ICI businesses through a new company, Huntsman ICI, in which ICI has agreed to keep a 30 percent stake for a minimum of three years and a maximum of four.

Huntsman will purchase ICI's three polyurethane manufacturing sites at Wilton, England; Rozenburg, the Netherlands, and Geismar, Louisiana.

Huntsman will also buy Imperial Chemical's share of Olefins production from the cracker in Wilton, at Teesside in northern England.

ICI also said it was considering several options for disposing of its acrylics activities.

(Reuters, Bridge News)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, April 15

Prices in local currencies.

In euros for ECU countries.

Téléxers

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index: 242.48

Previous: 242.48

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Beweg Holding

BMW

Borsa

Commerzbank

DaimlerChrysler

Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Telekom

Dresdner

E.ON

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JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE."

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MUCH MORE THAN TALK

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

*In a Hare-and-Tortoise Market, Even Hedge Funds Falter*By Richard A. Oppel Jr.
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Investors kicking themselves as their portfolios fall further behind index funds and Internet stocks can take comfort in this: They've got prestigious company.

Several of the biggest and most celebrated hedge funds, the freewheeling private partnerships that invest more than \$200 billion for pension funds, endowments and very wealthy individuals, have gotten off to a poor start this year.

Hedge funds, unlike mutual funds, can borrow huge sums to invest, speculate in foreign currencies and sell stocks short in a bet they will decline. But while some have made wrong-way currency bets or had other complicated strategies backfire this year, many others have simply found it difficult to pick stocks, or short them, in an environment where major indexes are powered higher by a small group of rapidly growing stocks.

Jeff Vinik, the former manager of Fidelity Investments Inc.'s Magellan fund who now oversees about \$2.5 billion at Vinik Asset Management LP in Boston, gained just 1 percent in the first quarter, after returns of 45 percent last year and 77 percent the previous year, according to a person knowledgeable about the fund.

Another top manager, Nicholas Roditi of Quota Fund, posted a 14.5 percent decline in the first quarter, a fund executive said. His \$1.1 billion fund stumbled last year, too, but ranked as one of the best over five years, cumulatively returning more than 400 percent through December.

Mr. Roditi, an outside investment adviser who runs

Quota for Soros Fund Management LLC, still outpaced the largest of the famed investor George Soros' funds, the \$6.9 billion Quantum fund. Managed by Stanley Druckenmiller, Quantum fell 15.5 percent during the first quarter, in part because of bad bets on the yen and bonds.

Another large hedge fund with a strong record, \$14 billion Tiger Management LP, dropped 7.5 percent in the

'In the last year or so, the fundamentals have gone out the window as companies with no earnings and no prospective earnings sell at infinite multiples.'

quarter, according to an investor. Tiger's boss, Julian Robertson, had many of his largest stock holdings in shares of small- to mid-capitalization companies, which declined along with most stocks of that size.

The results, in part, demonstrate that even the highest-paid minds in investing are not immune to what has become a two-tiered market: A select batch of large growth stocks pushing indexes to record levels, while most stocks sputter or decline.

Just like many retail investors, who have eschewed large-cap stock funds and the latest Internet offerings for more conservative "value" stocks, some hedge funds have found that fundamental research and old-fashioned stockpicking has not worked lately.

Mr. Roditi and Mr. Druckenmiller declined to comment through a Soros spokesman, who also declined to comment on the performance of Quota or Quantum. Executives at Vinik Asset Management and Tiger Management also declined to comment on the performance of their funds.

percent in the first quarter. "The general narrowness of the market is a problem for all managers," said Charles Gradiane, the chief investment strategist at the Hennessee Group.

Among big funds, first-quarter results ranged from losses of 15 percent to gains of about the same amount, an unusually wide spread for three months, said Antoine Bernheim, publisher of U.S. Offshore Funds Director.

By some measures, the stock market has not shown as dramatic lack of breadth in generation. Four out of five stocks have underperformed the S&P 500 by at least 15 percent over the past year, according to Salomon Smith Barney Inc., by far the widest such divergence in the 28 years the firm has tracked the measure. And this year through April 9, the average stock on the New York Stock Exchange declined 5.9 percent, compared to a 10.1 percent gain in the S&P 500.

Hedge funds tend to traffic in smaller-cap stocks, whose underperformance has been somewhat obscured by some of the large caps, which

have driven the large indices, says George Van, the chairman of Van Hedge Fund Advisors International Co. in Nashville. "When small caps come back, I think hedge funds will outperform."

Consider Tiger Management, which reported holding about \$7 billion in stocks at the end of last year, according to securities filings. Of Tiger's 25 largest stocks holdings, 13 had market capitalizations of less than \$3 billion.

And those, 11 have declined over the past year, in keeping with the decline in most mid-cap stocks this year. Some of Tiger's larger stocks did much better. Its fourth-largest holding at the end of last year, MCI Worldcom Inc., has jumped 30 percent this year, while the seventh-largest, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., has risen 60 percent.

"What's happened in the last year or so is that the fundamentals have been thrown out the window, as companies that have no earnings and no prospective earnings are selling at infinite multiples. It really has upset the applecart," said one of Mr. Robertson's investors, who asked not to be named.

The wide gap between large-cap growth stocks and the rest of the market has caused hedge-fund managers to change some habits. Some, for instance, have stopped shorting S&P 500 Index futures when they want to hedge certain stock purchases and are using mid-cap futures instead.

They're matching capitalization much more closely than they've ever had to, said Antoine McCabe, the president of Blackstone Alternative Asset Management in New York, which oversees \$1.5 billion in hedge-fund money invested through 40 different managers.

The Standard & Poor's index of 500 large-cap companies rose 5 percent in the first quarter, an index of 18 leading hedge funds tracked by U.S. Offshore Funds Director rose just 1.3 percent, the second-worst quarterly performance in almost four years. A broader index of hedge funds tracked by the Hennessee Group, a New York hedge fund advisory service, did better, returning 3.3

percent, according to the Hennessee Group. The Hennessee Group's 25 largest stocks holdings, 13 had market capitalizations of less than \$3 billion. And those, 11 have declined over the past year, in keeping with the decline in most mid-cap stocks this year. Some of Tiger's larger stocks did much better. Its fourth-largest holding at the end of last year, MCI Worldcom Inc., has jumped 30 percent this year, while the seventh-largest, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., has risen 60 percent.

A few stockpickers have managed to thrive this year. Cumberland Associates, with \$800 million managed by Oscar Schaefer, rose about 14 percent in the first quarter and is up slightly more than 20 percent over the past year, according to a person knowledgeable about the fund.

Cumberland's winners include Finer Holdings Corp., an electronic-commerce mortgage broker, up almost 1,100 percent over the past year, and United International Holdings Inc., one of the largest cable-television operators outside the United States, up 173 percent.

Meanwhile, some funds that suffered huge losses or, in some cases, were nearly wiped out last autumn with the Russian debt default and near-collapse of Long-Term Capital Management LP have stabilized or are posting decent gains, though they have a long way to go to make up for 1998.

Long-Term Capital Management has reduced its balance sheet and posted gains since its bailout last autumn.

Overall, the fixed-income hedge funds tracked by Hennessee Group rose 7.2 percent in the quarter. Many funds are getting "a lot of mileage" from fixed-income strategies, Ms. McCabe said.

Meanwhile, some funds

Packer Sets On-Line Spin-Off

Reuters

SYDNEY — The media magnate Kerry Packer plans to cash in on the Internet stock craze by floating part of his on-line operation, raising about 250 million Australian dollars (\$159.1 million).

Daniel Peter, chairman of the on-line unit of Mr. Packer's Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd., said the flotation, by September, would occur "wherever is most appropriate for the company." The unit also changed its name to ecorp Pty. from PBL Online. Analysts and sources said the spin-off probably would end up on the Nasdaq market.

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AVIS AUX ACTIONNAIRES

Messieurs les actionnaires sont conviés par le présent avis à
L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ORDINAIRE DES
ACTIONNAIRES
qui se tiendra au siège social à Luxembourg le 26 Avril 1999 à 15h30,
avec l'ordre du jour suivant :

ORDRE DU JOUR

1. Compte rendu d'activité du Conseil d'Administration pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 Décembre 1998.
2. Rapport du Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 Décembre 1998.
3. Adoption des comptes de l'exercice se terminant le 31 Décembre 1998.
4. Affectation du résultat de l'exercice se terminant le 31 Décembre 1998.
5. Décharge aux Administrateurs et au Réviseur d'Entreprises pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 Décembre 1998.
6. Nomination des organes sociaux :
7. Nomination des Administrateurs.
8. Nomination du Réviseur d'Entreprises.
9. Divers.

Les actionnaires sont informés qu'aucun quorum n'est requis pour cette assemblée et que les décisions sont prises à la majorité simple des actions présentes ou représentées.

Chaque action a un droit de vote.

Tout actionnaire peut voter par mandat. A cette fin, des procurations sont disponibles au siège social et seront envoyées aux actionnaires sur demande.

Afin d'être valables, les procurations doivent être envoyées au siège social afin d'être reçues le jour précédent l'assemblée à 17 heures au plus tard.

Les propriétaires décisons au porteur, détenant participer à cette assemblée, devront déposer leurs actions cinq jours ouvrables avant l'assemblée au siège social de la société.

Les actionnaires désireux d'obtenir le Rapport Annuel Audité au 31 Décembre 1998 peuvent s'adresser au siège social de la société.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Strawberry Charged Over Sex and Drugs

BASEBALL Darryl Strawberry, New York Yankees outfielder, has been charged in Tampa, Florida with possession of cocaine and soliciting a prostitute.

Strawberry solicited an undercover officer for sex for \$50, police said after the arrest Wednesday. Police searched Strawberry and found 0.3 grams of cocaine wrapped in a \$20 bill.

The 37-year-old was released on \$6,000 bond. He is in Tampa at the Yankees' training camp getting into shape after cancer surgery. (AP)

Deal Reached in WNBA

BASKETBALL The Women's NBA and its players' union agreed to a four-year contract Wednesday. The preliminary agreement, expected to be ratified by the players Monday, included increases in the minimum salary to \$30,000 from \$15,000 for veterans and to \$25,000 for rookies. Benefits include year-round health and dental care, pension, maternity benefits and life insurance. (AP)

Evidence on the Judges

BOXING Roy Goodman, a New York state senator, said he had unearthed evidence of a potentially criminal nature involving the judging in the heavyweight championship fight between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis last month. Goodman said Wednesday he had given the evidence to the Manhattan district attorney. (NYT)

Devils Stay Hot on Road

ICE HOCKEY The New Jersey Devils tied a National Hockey League record with their 27th road victory, 2-1, over the Buffalo Sabres on Wednesday. The Devils matched the record set by the Montreal Canadiens in 1976-77 and 1977-78. New Jersey can break the record in its final game at Nashville. (AP)

Manchester Pays a Price For Its Berth In Cup Final

Compiled by The Staff From Despatch

Manchester United paid a price for its FA Cup semifinal replay triumph over Arsenal.

Ryan Giggs, who scored the winning goal in extra time, hobbled out of Villa Park on crutches Wednesday night with

SOCCER ROUNDUP

an ankle injury and could miss United's European Cup semifinal second leg against Juventus in Turin next week. Peter Schmeichel, who saved a penalty for United, injured himself making a save in extra time. Roy Keane, the United captain, was sent off, and will be suspended for United's next game in the Premier League.

Giggs, a second-half substitute, secured the United victory with an impressive goal in the second half of extra time. He burst past four Arsenal defenders in a 60-meter surge that began inside his own half before lashing a left-foot drive high into the net past David Seaman, the Arsenal goalkeeper.

David Beckham bad put United ahead with a brilliant shot after 17 minutes. Dennis Bergkamp leveled with a deflected shot after 69 minutes.

United had to play the final 46 minutes with 10 men after Keane earned his second yellow card.

Arsenal won a penalty but Schmeichel, who made a series of outstanding saves, pushed away Bergkamp's kick.

YOUTH WORLD CUP Pablo Gonzalez scored twice in a three-goal, 15-minute outburst in the first half, and Spain went on to defeat the United States, 3-2, in Port Harcourt, Nigeria on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals at the Youth World Cup.

Taylor Twellman scored a pair of second-half goals for the United States, but his second goal came in injury time, too late to worry the Spanish. The victory sends Spain to Kaduna and a



Ryan Giggs, right, taking his game-winning shot as Tony Adams defends.

meeting with African under-20 champion Ghana on Sunday.

In Bauchi, Nigeria on Thursday, Japan upset Portugal, 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw. The victory sends Japan to the round of eight on Sunday, when it will face the winner of the match between Mexico and two-time defending champion Argentina, played late Thursday.

Brazil, seeking its fourth title in the world under-20 championships, routed Croatia, 4-0, Wednesday. Brazil will face Uruguay on Sunday in Lagos. Uruguay edged Paraguay in Lagos, 10-9, on penalties after a 2-2 tie. The game was a rough one; one Paraguayan and two Uruguayan received red cards.

Also on Sunday, Nigeria will face the winner of the Mali-Cameroun game played late Thursday.

ITALY Gabriel Batistuta and Hernan Crespo, the Argentinean strikers who lead Serie A in scoring, each scored Wednesday as Parma and Fiorentina drew, 1-1, in the first leg of the Italian cup final.

Crespo, who has 16 goals in the league, gave host Parma the lead.

With nine minutes to go, Edmundo, Batistuta's Brazilian partner up front, collected the ball on the right, thundered

toward the touchline and fired a low hard shot into the goalmouth. Batistuta got to the ball just ahead of Parma's French center fullback, Lilian Thuram, and hammered it into the Parma goal.

FRANCE Bordeaux, the French league leader, was held to a scoreless draw at home Wednesday by Lorient.

The result means that Bordeaux moves two points ahead of Olympique Marseille, which takes on Nancy in Montpellier on Thursday. Marseille was ordered to play the match away from its Stade Velodrome after recent crowd violence at the club's matches.

NETHERLANDS Mario Melchiot scored the winning goal as Ajax Amsterdam beat Feyenoord, 2-1, in a Dutch Cup semifinal Wednesday.

In the final, Ajax will face Fortuna Sittard, which beat PSV Eindhoven, 3-1, Tuesday. Wambersi gave Ajax the lead with a bicycle kick in the first half. In the second half, Feyenoord, the league leader, found its rhythm again, and Jean Paul van Gastel leveled the score in the 55th minute with a free kick from 20 meters.

Melchiot scored in the 71st minute after running through the Feyenoord defense to shoot the ball through goalkeeper Jurek Dudek's legs. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

U.S. Senate Begins Hearings on Olympics

'Get Rid of Samaranch,' Lawmaker Says

By Richard Sandomir
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Members of a Senate committee harshly reprimanded two U.S. members of the International Olympic Committee for a "culture of corruption," on the first day of hearings on the IOC.

While other senators suggested varying timetables for reform, Senator Ernest Hollings lent an air of blunt impatience to the Commerce Committee proceedings Wednesday with a call for immediate action.

"What are y'all waiting for?" the South Carolina Democrat asked. "Why not get rid of Samaranch?"

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president since 1980, has been under fire during the Olympic crisis, but has resolutely resisted calls to step down and declined an invitation to appear at the hearings.

"Why not say, 'Get rid of the guy?'" Hollings said, adding: "Let them all resign. Get a clean group. That's the only way to get structural change."

Looking at George Mitchell, the former senator who headed a inquiry into the Salt Lake City bribery scandal on behalf of the U.S. Olympic Committee, Hollings said: "Give us some marching orders. Tell us what to do."

The Mitchell commission offered a road map for IOC and USOC reform in March in its report examining the "culture of improper gift-giving" that characterized Salt Lake City's successful bid to host the 2002 Winter Games.

The USOC quickly adopted the recommendations, but the IOC has moved at a slower pace, creating ethics and reform panels that have yet to meet. A 30-member task force created by Samaranch has so far named only six members.

Despite repeated praise for the USOC's swift move to adopt some reforms, Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican who is chairman of the Commerce Committee, chastised William Hybl, the USOC president, for not turning over the organization's internal report of its in-

vestigation into the Salt Lake scandal.

McCain also repeatedly expressed annoyance with the two U.S. members of the IOC, Anita DeFrantz and James Easton, for the vagueness of their answers during testimony, and for their failure to fully support the Mitchell panel's recommendations for reform.

Afterward, McCain said he would have preferred to question Samaranch. "I think he has the information they clearly didn't have," he said, referring to DeFrantz and Easton.

The Mitchell commission's recommendations for the IOC include term limits and periodic reelection for its members; prohibiting any country that does not sign an international treaty against bribery from being the host of an Olympics; opening IOC meetings and financial statements to the public; and requiring all IOC members' visits to cities bidding for the Olympics to be paid for by the committee or by the members.

Senators implied that the IOC's severity would determine the severity of possible congressional legislation. Senator Ted Stevens, Republican of Alaska, suggested measures to limit the IOC's tax-exempt status in the United States, to reduce the tax deductibility of payments and sponsorship fees to the IOC by U.S. television networks and other companies and to shift control of all domestic TV payments from the IOC to the USOC.

On Monday, Representatives Henry Waxman, Democrat of California, and Rick Lazio, Republican of New York, introduced a bill that would prohibit U.S. corporations and individuals from providing financial support to the IOC until it adopts the Mitchell commission's recommendations.

McCain and Stevens warned against rushing into harsh legislative action in order to gauge how quickly the IOC acts and to forestall any cuts in money from anxious global sponsors, which would hurt smilie. Nonetheless, McCain said he would move immediately to introduce legislation to place the IOC under the federal Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which bars bribery of foreign officials.

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SPORTS

Yankees Crush Orioles Despite Irabu's Shaky Pitching

The Associated Press

Chuck Knoblauch hit a leadoff homer and went 5-for-6 as the New York Yankees took sole possession of the American League East lead for the first time this season, beating the Baltimore Orioles, 14-7, for their seventh straight victory.

"That was obviously an awesome display of hitting, or an awful display of pitching," Ray Miller, the Baltimore manager, said after his team lost Wednesday for the sixth time in seven games. "It was probably a little bit of both."

New York has won its last nine home games against Baltimore.

The Yankees led, 8-2, before Hideki Irabu came in and was tagged for five runs in one-third of an inning.

"I don't feel physically bad. I just need to throw the ball better," Irabu said through a translator. "There are many different ways to get out of a slump. It's up to the manager to decide."

Irabu, dropped from the rotation after

falling to cover first base twice in one week during spring training, was booted as he left the field after Harold Baines's three-run homer made the score 8-7.

Interim manager Don Zimmer said he did not know what Irabu's next step should be.

"His confidence can't be high right now," Zimmer said. "We need to hit him right. We got him into the perfect situation with a six-run lead. Before you know it, we were in a fight for our lives."

Indians 11, Royals 4 Sandy Alomar hit his first homer since August, and Manny Ramirez hit a three-run shot as Cleveland scored nine runs in the sixth inning against visiting Kansas City.

Blue Jays 7, Devil Rays 6 Jose Cruz Jr. hit a game-winning single in the 11th inning as Toronto beat visiting Tampa despite Jose Canseco's 400th career home run. Canseco became the 28th player in major-league history to reach

the 400-homer mark. Born in Cuba, he also is the first player born outside the United States to hit 400 homers.

Athletics 6, Angels 5 Matt Stairs drew a bases-loaded walk to drive home the tying run, and Olmedo Salas followed

with a sacrifice fly as Oakland beat visiting Anaheim.

Rangers 8, Mariners 6 Tom Goodwin hit a go-ahead single in the seventh and Lee Stevens hit a two-run homer as Texas scored four runs in the ninth to win in Seattle.

Tigers 7, Twins 1 Jeff Weaver pitched five shutout innings, allowing one hit in his major league debut, and Detroit stopped a six-game losing streak by beating visiting Minnesota.

Marlins 4, Marlins 1 John Franco became the second pitcher to reach 400 career saves and Orel Hershiser got his first

victory with New York as the host Mets extended their winning streak to five by beating Florida.

Franco, 38, got his third save of the season. He relieved in the ninth and struck out Todd Duwoody and Preston Wilson before Kevin Orih hit a bloop double.

Franco then fanned Jorge Fabregas for the final out and was mobbed by his teammates at Shea Stadium.

The only reliever with more saves than Franco is Lee Smith, who retired with 478.

Expos 15, Brewers 1 Jim Abbott got rocked again. Fortunately, there were few witnesses.

Abbott gave up eight runs in three-plus innings, including two homers and a career-high six RBIs by Chris Widger, as the Expos routed Milwaukee in front of only 6,525 fans in Montreal. Abbott's earned run average rose to 14.63.

Cubs 5, Reds 4 Glenallen Hill hit a pair

of homers and Sammy Sosa got out of a slump with two doubles as the Cubs snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Cincinnati in Chicago.

Cardinals 9, Pirates 8 Darren Bragg hit his first two National League homers and St. Louis squandered a four-run lead before rallying to win in Pittsburgh with the help of some sloppy Pirates defense.

Braves 10, Phillies 4 Chipper Jones, Javy Lopez and Gerald Williams homered to lead Atlanta to victory in Philadelphia.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 2 Jay Bell hit his major league-leading fifth homer and Omar Daal pitched seven strong innings as Arizona beat Los Angeles in Phoenix.

Astros 6, Giants 3 At San Francisco. Jose Lima pitched six solid innings and Houston hit three homers, including Jeff Bagwell's first of the season, to win in San Francisco.

• San Diego's game at Colorado was postponed by snow.



New York Mets reliever John Franco celebrating his 400th career save with catcher Todd Pratt.

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John Franco

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
7	1	.375	
3	6	.167	1
2	5	.250	2
1	6	.200	3

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
7	1	.700	
3	5	.462	1
2	5	.400	2
1	6	.333	3

WEST DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
7	1	.556	
3	5	.444	1
2	6	.400	2
1	6	.333	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

W	L	Pct.	GB
7	1	.700	
3	5	.444	1
2	6	.400	2
1	6	.333	3

CENTRAL DIVISION

W	L	Pct.	GB
7	1	.700	
3	5	.444	1
2	6	.400	2
1	6	.333	3

WEST DIVISION

NBA STANDINGS

NBA STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

CENTRAL LEAGUE

PACIFIC LEAGUE

THURSDAY RESULTS

CENTRAL LEAGUE

PACIFIC LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY RESULTS

NBA STANDINGS

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POSTCARD

That Spooky Sound

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

LONDON — It may seem odd that a video artist like Douglas Gordon should be drawn to Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo" by its sound track. But having previously manipulated the images of such movies as Hitchcock's "Psycho" and Rouben Mamoulian's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," Gordon wanted this time to probe the psychological dimension of music scores. And with "Vertigo," a good measure of the spookiness of the 1958 thriller starring James Stewart and Kim Novak is provided by Bernard Herrmann's music.

"For me, 'Vertigo' was the single most generic sound I could associate with cinema," Gordon said. "I tested it on people. I played it and asked people to identify it. Everyone knew that it was not written by a classic composer, and that it was a cinema score. But no one could place it as 'Vertigo.' It was what I was looking for. It was the sound of cinema for an entire generation."

The result is "Feature Film," a cinematic installation in which Gordon separates the music from the movie, then brings them together again in an unexpected way. The work, which has been commissioned by Arangell, an independent arts organization that promotes art installations in unusual venues, is on view through May 3 at the Atlantis Gallery in the Spitalfields district of East London. The gallery is, in fact, the loftlike second floor of a former beer brewery.

The space is filled with the lush sound track of "Vertigo," which appears to be coming from a large screen that almost divides the 150-foot-long room. The only im-

ages on the screen, though, are flashes of the hands, arms, eyes, face and hair of a man who appears to be conducting the score. At the far end of the hall, "Vertigo" itself is being projected onto a side wall, but without sound. Thus, when dialogue is spoken during the 122-minute movie, there is silence in the gallery. The music, 80 minutes of it, is alone used to set the mood.

Gordon, a wiry and good-natured graduate of both the Glasgow School of Art in his hometown and the Slade School in London, sees the work as a new step in his investigation into duality. In "24 Hour Psycho" in 1993, for instance, he projected Hitchcock's film in shuddering slow motion over 24 hours — and here Herrmann's score was pointedly missing.

In "Confessions of a Justified Sinner," he took three sequences from the 1932 "Dr. Jekyll and Hyde" and projected them in slow motion in positive and negative images, like good and evil on two screens. In "Divided Self," two screens show a hand holding down an arm on a pillow: On one screen, a hairy arm holds down a hairless arm, suggesting a woman's arm, and on the other the roles are reversed (both arms in fact belong to the artist).

These works have placed Gordon at the forefront of the current boom in contemporary art in Britain. He is not part of the London art scene led by Damien Hirst, preferring to keep his base in Glasgow and to spend long stretches in Germany and New York. But he has been gaining recognition at an impressive pace: He won Britain's Turner Prize in 1996, the Premio 2000 at the Venice Biennale in 1997 and the Guggenheim's Hugo Boss Prize in 1998.

The space is filled with the lush sound track of "Vertigo," which appears to be coming from a large screen that almost divides the 150-foot-long room. The only im-

David Streiffeld
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — "I was a short, socially maladroit kid in high school," Michael Cunningham said. "With just about everything, I've always had the sense of being a late bloomer." Better late than never. The 46-year-old New Yorker has just won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, shortly after winning the PEN/Faulkner Award, for "The Hours," a novel inspired by the modernist icon Virginia Woolf.

Joanna Scott, one of the three PEN/Faulkner judges this year, called the book "innovative, eloquent, intelligent, wonderful." While Scott and her fellow judges are all novices themselves, she said the fact that this is in some sense a novel about a novelist is "only a kind of dessert added to the feast." As it happened, Cunningham's worry was that his fourth novel "not be some kind of dry academic exercise that amounted to nothing more or less than a sort of annex or addendum to 'Mrs. Dalloway,'" the great Woolf novel that "The Hours" is a response to.

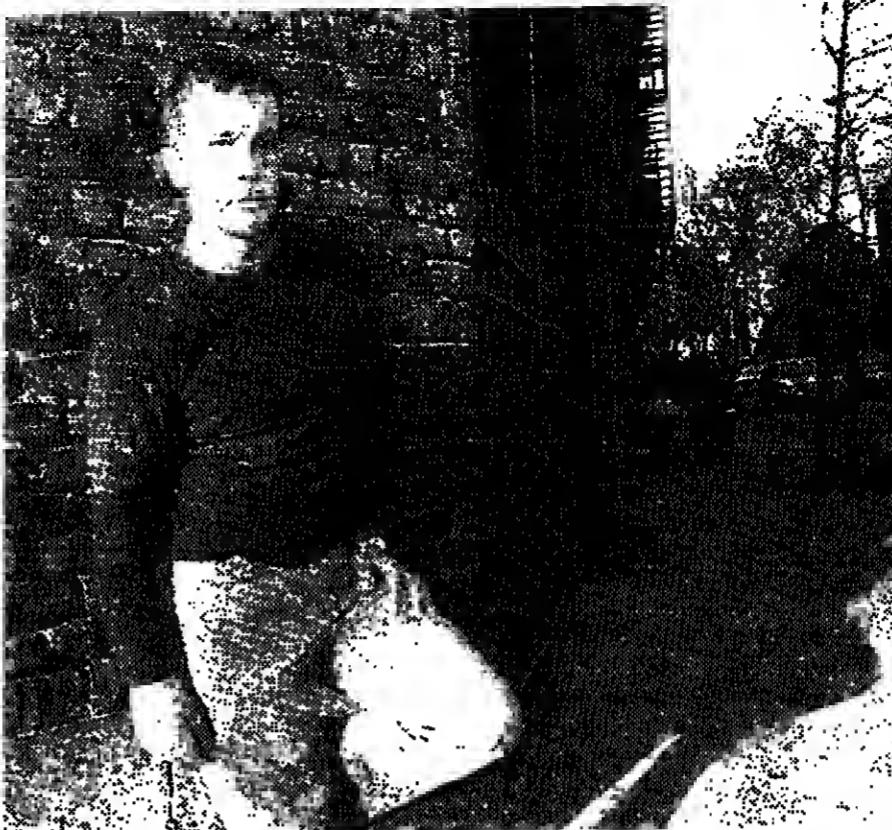
The word "homage" makes me slightly nervous," he added during an interview before his Pulitzer was announced, "as if it were something gilded on a rope being draped over the head of someone elderly or august. I wanted it to be livelier."

By most accounts, he succeeded. Launched by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in November, just as the same house was unleashing Tom Wolfe on the world, "The Hours" provides a contrast to "A Man in Full." With almost no hype, it has gone through five printings, totaling 37,500, with a sixth ordered last week. That's only a minuscule percentage of what Wolfe book sold, but whereas carpings about "A Man in Full" has increased over time, "The Hours" has continued to build an audience through word of mouth.

"It's had surprising endurance," Cunningham said. "It seems to have a life through people passing it on to other people."

The novelist hasn't quite disowned his first novel, "Golden States," but he doesn't list it among his credits. "I had been frozen throughout my twenties. It was easier to imagine myself as someone who might have talent than it was to put the talent to the test. Writing that book jump-started me, the way you would jump-start a car. It's an O.K. book — one of those that might be fine in a way, but don't need to stick around."

The AIDS epidemic forced him to look



Michael Cunningham's novel "The Hours" was inspired by Virginia Woolf.

deeper. "I knew a lot of people who were desperately ill, many of whom were heroes whom I had seen come through time and time again for others. As some of them got sick and it was my turn to take care of them, I was a little uncertain about what kind of books to take them. A lot of them were not very big readers, and it was late in the game for Homer or Chekhov. They weren't going to start doing that kind of reading. They wanted books in some ways about their lives."

He couldn't find much, so he wrote the books he needed. "A Home at the End of the World," about two men and a woman who redefine the notion of family, was particularly acclaimed, while "Flesh and Blood" was a saga of a family across four generations that drew mixed notices.

"The Hours" is much briefer than either "A Man in Full" or "The Hours," taking a mere 228 pages to tell the story of three women: Clarissa, a book editor who

is planning a party for her friend Richard, a poet dying of AIDS; Laura Brown, a Los Angeles housewife in 1949 who is contemplating suicide, and Woolf herself, fighting off madness and writing the deceptively simple tale of a woman running errands and contemplating her life and existence — "Mrs. Dalloway," of course.

In another interview, when he was on tour last fall, Cunningham said that he "wanted to write about who lives and who dies — what allows some people to just keep going, and others to just collapse in the face of it all. The notion that somebody like Virginia Woolf, who could see the world as deeply and fully and completely as she did, who died as deep a sense of the joy of being alive as anyone, could still ultimately decide not to live — I suspect it's one of the reasons we remain so fascinated not only by her work but by her death."

Cunningham's interest in Woolf dates

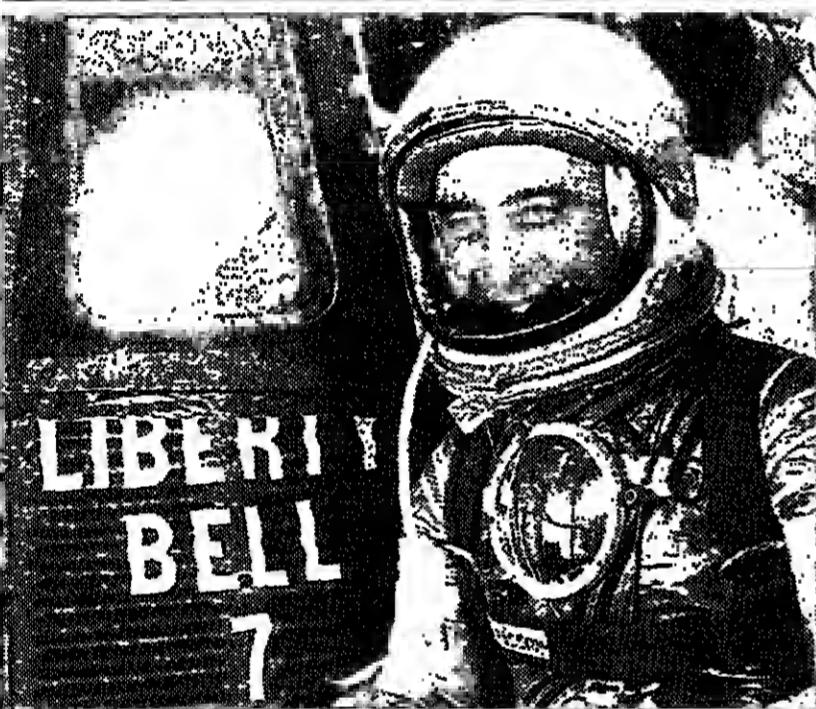
from his years as a teenager in Southern California. A friend, "a sort of outlaw queen" in their little town, encouraged him to read Woolf. When he went to the library, only "Mrs. Dalloway" was to be found. "I was just a kid. I didn't understand it. I didn't know what it was about, really. But her sentences stayed with me all those years. A Virginia Woolf sentence is like no other ever written by anyone in the history of human civilization. Reading her for the first time came to feel as vital as any first love, like falling in love or losing your virginity."

It is clear that Jonathan Galassi — not only Cunningham's editor but also the editor of Alice McDermott (winner of this year's National Book Award for fiction), Edward Ball (winner of this year's National Book Award for nonfiction), Wolfe and Scott Turow, among others — is the great editor of our time. At least, "Jonathan Galassi is God," Cunningham said. "He reads your book — not all editors do. He reads your book deeply and sternly and generously and talks to you about it, almost the way a good shrink talks to you about your psyche. He doesn't fix your book. He asks all the right, difficult questions, and turns you loose to fix your book or not fix your book as you choose."

Galassi, confronted with Cunningham's assertion, demurred. "He's sweet," he said, meanwhile crediting all those awards to "a lot of good luck."

From Cunningham's "The Hours"

Yes. Clarissa thinks, it's time for the day to be over. We throw our parties; we abandon our families to live alone in Canada; we struggle to write books that do not change the world, despite our gifts and our unshakable efforts, our most extravagant hopes. We live our lives, do whatever we have to do, and then we sleep — it's as simple and ordinary as that. A few jump out of windows or drown themselves or take pills; more die by accident; and most of us, the vast majority, are slowly devoured by some disease or, if we're very fortunate, by time itself. There's just this for consolation: an hour here or there when our lives seem, against all odds and expectations, to burst open and give us everything we've ever imagined, though everyone but children (and perhaps even they) knows these hours will inevitably be followed by others, far darker and more difficult. Still, we cherish the city, the morning; we hope, more than anything, for more. Heaven only knows why we love it so.



Gus Grissom with Liberty Bell 7 before his suborbital flight in 1961.

An underwater salvage expert who has spent 14 years trying to find Virgil (Gus) Grissom's sunken Mercury capsule will head out to sea this weekend in his most extensive search for the spacecraft yet. Curt Newport is teaming up with the U.S. cable television station the Discovery Channel for the two-week hunt about 480 kilometers (300 miles) off the Florida coast. The crew plans to set sail Sunday with the latest in side-scan sonar in hopes of finding Liberty Bell 7, lost at sea 38 years ago. The capsule sank to the bottom of the Atlantic after splashing down on July 21, 1961, when the explosive bolts that blow open the hatch detonated prematurely. There is still debate over whether the hatch malfunctioned or Grissom panicked and blew it open. Grissom, who nearly drowned in the incident, insisted until his death in a 1967 Apollo launch-pad fire that he had done nothing to cause the hatch to blow. NASA exonerated Grissom after the Mercury accident and he went on to fly on Gemini 3, although some accounts, including Tom Wolfe's 1979 book

"The Right Stuff," suggested that Grissom had panicked.

The body of the country music legend Tammy Wynette was exhumed Wednesday and an autopsy performed to try to answer lingering questions about what caused her death. George Richey, Wynette's fifth husband and the subject of a \$50 million wrongful death lawsuit brought by three of her daughters, requested the exhumation and autopsy. The results are expected in four to six weeks. The daughters claim that Wynette died because her doctor, Wallace Marsh of Pittsburgh, did not monitor her condition closely enough and over-prescribed medication. They also claim Richey did not seek medical care for her after being urged to do so by Marsh. Wynette died at home in Nashville, Tennessee, at age 55 in April 1998.

The 1982 film "The Year of Living Dangerously," which had been banned in Singapore, will be screened there for

the first time at the Singapore International Film Festival. The movie stars Mel Gibson as a journalist covering the failed 1965 Communist coup in Indonesia. Peter Weir, its Australian director, whose other works include "The Truman Show" and "Witness," will present the film at the festival, which opens Friday.

The Reverend Billy Graham will be inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tennessee, next week for his support of Christian music. He will be represented by the singer George Beverly Shea at the ceremony on Wednesday and a video acceptance speech by Graham will be shown.

A British couple who married as total strangers three months ago as part of a radio station contest have split up after the ultimate blind date went wrong. Greg Cordell, 28, a salesman, and Carla Germaine, 23, a model, met for the first time at the altar after they

were selected to marry in the competition organized by radio station BRMB in Birmingham, England. The prize was a honeymoon to the Bahamas and the use of a luxury apartment and a car for a year. The split followed a Sunday newspaper report that Cordell had had an affair with a dental nurse. The couple, who described themselves as ordinary people who had done an extraordinary thing, blamed media intrusion for their breakup, but said they would remain friends.

Hillary Rodham Clinton is writing another book, this time detailing how she and President Bill Clinton entertain guests at the White House. The book, "An Invitation to the White House," will be published by Simon and Schuster in the fall. Her other books were "It Takes a Village," about raising children, and "Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets," about the Clinton's cat and dog. In keeping with her usual practice, she will donate the proceeds of the new book to charity.

(put on a happy face)

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